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INSIDE

BUSINESS

Congress cleared a $1.1 trillion spending bill for President Barack Obama's signature late Saturday night after a day of Senate intrigue capped by a failed, largely symbolic Republican challenge to the administration's new immigration policy.

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ASIA

Japanese voters headed to the polls Sunday in a parliamentary election that is expected to reaffirm the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's majority, though many analysts were predicting a record low turnout.

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FOCUS

It began with a spark, four years ago: An itinerant fruit seller, despairing of life in authoritarian Tunisia, set himself on fire and burned to death.

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US House, Senate pass HR 83

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

» Bill contains CNMI special immigration provisions

CNMI investors holding E-2C visas can now heave a sigh of relief after the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives over the weekend passed H.R. 83, an insular areas bill that was used as the vehicle to fund most of the federal government for the remainder of fiscal year 2015.

Included in the measure is language authored by Delagate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), extending for five years certain immigration policies crucial to the Northern Mariana Islands economy.

The policies bar claims of asylum from the Northern Marianas, which is critical to the islands' tourism industry; protect a small number of foreign investors, who were allowed to enter under Northern Marianas immigration law prior to 2009; and exempt the Northern Marianas and Guam from the cap on foreign workers, who may enter for temporary jobs, such as construction connected with the U.S. military build-up in the islands and resort development.

H.R. 83 passed the Senate with 56 yes votes, 40 no votes, and four abstentions. The same measure also hurdled the House in a narrow vote of 219-206.

The White House issued a statement last Friday saying President Barrack Obama supports enactment of H.R. 83.

See HR 83 on Page 4

THOMAS MANGLONA II

Fr. James Balajadia, Apostolic Delegate to the CNMI Archbishop Martin Krebs, and local and Guam clergy pose for a group photo after the liturgical celebration at Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Saturday. Left, Archbishop Martin Krebs congratulates Fr. James Balajadia after being officially deemed worthy of the priesthood and assigned as parochial vicar of Mt. Carmel Cathedral

THE PEOPLE'S PRIEST

Fr. James S. Balajadia is newest member of clergy

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

» Archbishop Krebs: Continue your support

The Catholic community rejoiced once again as James Balajadia went up the ranks of the Holy Order and was ordained a priest last Saturday at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

The priestly ordination was witnessed by local and Guam church officials, family, friends, and hundreds of parishioners. Balajadia was officially deemed worthy of the

See BALAJADIA on Page 4

Headstart maintains funded enrollment; reports progress

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The CNMI Head Start program has maintained its funded enrollment requirement of 462 children as of last week, with average daily attendance at about 80 percent, according to program director Melissa Palacios in her report to the CNMI State Board of Education last week.

The daily attendance requirement is 85 percent, according to Palacios. Most of the absences are due to illnesses like minor colds or fevers, she said.

Head Start has also have recently completed their first child outcomes report and Parent Teacher conference have also taken place, Palacios told the board.

"Our family are very happy with the results [and] the progress that's been happening with their children," Palacios said. She added that the data would be shared with the board once finalized.

The Head Start Policy Council was able to complete the election of their officers, according to Palacios. They are

See HEADSTART on Page 4

Local

CPA executive director admits misuse of govt vehicle

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director MaryAnn Q. Lizama pleaded guilty on Friday to a traffic case citing her for using a CPA issued vehicle in buying items at a store.

Lizama apologized to the court for her actions and stated that she holds herself accountable for the mistakes that she made and learn from those, and not make the same mistake twice.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho accepted Lizama's guilty plea to the traffic charge of use of government vehicle for non-government purposes.

Camacho sentenced Lizama to three days in prison, all suspended.

Camacho ordered the defendant to pay a $500 fine not to be paid by the government or CPA, and placed her on six months probation.

The judge dismissed the other traffic citations of government vehicle use restriction and marking of government vehicle as part of the plea deal.

Lizama appeared with her counsel, Joey Patrick San Nicolas, at the hearing.

Assistant attorney general Emily Cohen stated that according to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Lizama admitted that she operated a government vehicle on the highways on Oct. 21, 2014 at approximately 5:21pm for non-government purposes.

» Lizama gets 3 days of suspended jail time, $500 fine

Asked by Camacho to explain in her own words what happened, Lizama said earlier during the day of Oct. 21, her daughter called and asked if she could pick up some items from the store for a gathering she had to attend.

Lizama said the intent was to pick up the items at the store, pay for them, and then she was going to meet her at the store to pick up the items she needed.

Lizama said she left work a little after 5pm, and on her way home, she stopped at the store to pick up the items her daughter asked for.

On her way out of the store, Lizama said a police officer assigned to the Office of the Public Auditor approached her and informed her that she wasn't supposed to be shopping using a government vehicle. The officer then issued her a citation.

The dismissed charges refer to an incident on Sept. 11, 2014, when Lizama allowed a CPA staff to use her government-issued vehicle to pick up her passport from her housekeeper at a laundromat

After the hearing, Lizama and San Nicolas proceeded to the Office of Adult Probation, where she paid the $500 fine.

In an interview, Lizama said she completely understands that because she holds a high-profile position, she is under extreme scrutiny and under the watchful eye of the public.

"I don't want anyone else to make an example out of me but let me make an example out of myself," she said.

The CPA executive director said she is hoping that her experience will also serve as a message to other government officials as well as government employees to know what they are not allowed to do when using government property.

"I had to learn the hard but unintentional way," said Lizama, adding that she hopes that authorities are consistent when enforcing the law.

Lizama said the CPA board chair and the board of directors are aware of what happened both times.

"I also had the message conveyed to our personnel who drive a CPA vehicle to make sure that they use their assigned vehicles accordingly and to not befall my error," she said.

Caroling at Christmas in the Marianas

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Christmas in the Marianas held its Christmas caroling contest last Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas and the turnout was bigger than prior years, according to Marianas Visitors Authority community projects specialist Ryan Calvo.

The event kicked off with students from the Green Meadow School serenading the community with holiday tunes followed by other schools that joined the caroling contest.

Schools that were present were San Vicente Elementary School, San Antonio Middle School, Garapan Elementary School, Northern Marianas International School, Green Meadow School, Koblerville Elementary School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, and other schools.

The event went from 5:30pm to 9pm with community members and visitors alike enjoying the voices of the CNMI's very own children.

"I think the kids are pouring out their heart and soul tonight and if you see, we have more participants here. This year we have more requests from the students for the caroling contest," Calvo said.

"This helps promote the talent of the schools here in the CNMI and also give them a chance to spread the holiday spirit to guests from abroad. I was here last year and it was good and it is getting competitive every year," Calvo added.

Koblerville Elementary School received the loudest cheers from community members during the event.

The school's music director John Jimeno said that last year they got second place for the caroling contest and were first place years prior to 2013.

"This year we want to try and aim to win this caroling contest. It took us about a month and a half because a lot of our former members moved on to the middle school and the only ones that we have left are new members," Jimeno said.

"This year's event has a very big turnout compared to the previous years and see what they are able to bring to table," he added.

One community member who asked to remain anonymous said that she and her kids have been going to the event annually.

"This year it is much bigger, you can see that the people are finally enjoying the event and want to be involve in the community more. So my child is in one of the schools and we're here to watch him perform," she said.

Next Saturday, Dec. 20, Christmas in the Marianas will be highlighted by a Marianas Walkers Association 5-kilometer Christmas Health Walk. There will also be a Christmas Costume Show, a Christmas parade from the Carolinian Village to Paseo with a float contest, and stage entertainment from 6pm to 9pm. On Dec. 27 there will be a Mochitsuki Exhibition.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Koblerville Elementary School received the loudest cheers in last Saturday's Christmas in the Marianas caroling contest held at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Christmas in the Marianas

The spirit of Christmas—and Santa Claus—are coming to town this Saturday (Dec. 20) evening as part of the **13th Annual Christmas in the Marianas** celebration at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan.

A **Christmas Parade** will be held at 6 p.m. from the Carolinian Utt north along Beach Rd. through downtown Garapan. Participants will be judged on their floats and costumes.

A **5K Christmas Health Walk** will be held by **Marianas Walking Association** beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Paseo de Marianas. The festivities will continue from 6-9 p.m. at the Paseo with entertainment and food and vendor sales, including local artwork and crafts.

On Dec. 27, a traditional **Japanese Mochitsuki Festival** will be held and the winner of the **Christmas Tree Decorating Competition** will be announced. Christmas trees are illuminated each evening throughout the rest of December for the enjoyment of visitors and residents.

Christmas in the Marianas sponsors and supporters also include: **T Galleria, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, DOCOMO Pacific, Kinpachi Restaurant, CNMI Public School System, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Country House Restaurant, RNV Construction, MISA Ent., Power 99, Moby Dick Restaurant, KKMP, Magic 100FM, KCNM, Teach PDI, Chamolinian Cultural Village,** and **Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture**.

Christmas in the Marianas
Paseo de Marianas, 5-9 p.m.
every Saturday in December

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Office of Transition appoints subcommittee chairs for review period

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Office of Transition has asked CNMI agencies and departments to provide their mandate, budget and personnel, policy and regulations information, as well as their future plans and recommendations to the office by this week, according to chair Gregorio M. Camacho in a letter sent out on Dec. 11.

The office has appointed its transition committee chairperson to lead their teams during this review period this week. According to the letter. Camacho requested for the information "as soon as possible" and no later than Dec. 16.

He asked for the cooperation from all departments, activity heads, boards, and commissions as they complete their transition report.

Oscar M. Babauta has been named transition committee chairperson for offices under the Office of Governor and Lt. Governor, while Catalina Tebit has been named for the Carolinian Affairs Office.

Donald Barcinas has been named for the Medical Referral office; Frank Rabauliman for the Medicaid Office; Shelane Borja for the Youth Affairs Office; Stanley Torres for the Board of Parole; and Vicente Camacho for the Public Defender's Office.

Gregorio M. Sablan has been named chairperson for transition team reviewing the Veterans Affairs Office; Ray Masga was named for the Zoning Office; Richard Seman for the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality; Geralyn Dela Cruz for the Criminal Justice Planning Agency; Susana Deleon Guerrero for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; and Oscar M. Babauta again for Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

William S. Torres leads the transition team for the Department of Commerce; Oscar C. Rasa for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs; Chris D. Leon Guerrero for the Department of Corrections; Ramon S. Basa for the Department of Finance; and Jose Mafnas for the Department of Labor.

Ross Manglona has been named transition chairperson for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources; Judy DLG Torres-Aldan for the Department of Public Lands; and Jose A. Reyes as chair, and Danny Buniag as vice chair for the Department of Public Works.

Transition leader for the Department of Public Safety is Clyde Norita; transition leaders for the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority are chair Alice Igitol and vice chair Juan I. Tenorio; for the Joeten Kiyu Library it is chair MaryAnn B. Arriola and vice chair Joseph Diaz. The latter two will also lead review for the CNMI Museum.

Glenna SP Reyes will lead review for the Commonwealth Development Authority; chair Pete P. Reyes and vice chair Antonio Agulto for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; chair Juan S. Reyes and vice chair James A. Ada for the Commonwealth Ports Authority; and Velma Palacios for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Chair Frank Aguon and vice chair Geri Willis will lead review teams for the Northern Marianas College; Rex I. Palacios for Marianas Public Lands Trust; Patricia S. Rasa for the Marianas Visitors Authority; Martin Ada for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.; and chair Barbara T. Sablan and vice chair Esther Sound for the Civil Service Commission and Office of Personnel Management.

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Seaman sues employer over injury to his back after fall at merchant vessel

A seaman has filed a lawsuit in federal court against his employer over the injury he suffered when he fell to the deck of a United States merchant vessel while at port in Diego Garcia.

Chrisnoen Marquez, through counsel Bruce Berline, is suing Maersk Line, Limited for Jones Act negligence, unseaworthiness, and failure to provide maintenance and cure.

Marquez asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold Maersk Line Ltd. liable to pay him damages, court costs, interest, and attorney's fees.

Berline stated in the complaint filed in court on Thursday, that on Dec. 14, 2011, M/V *LTC John U.D. Page*, a United States flagged merchant vessel, was anchored at Diego Garcia.

A superior ordered Marquez to conduct monthly maintenance work on the vessel, which included exercising a manual release lever on a spreader.

When Marquez pushed against the length of pipe that was placed on the manual release lever, the release lever suddenly and unexpectedly broke free.

When the release lever broke free, Marquez felt a sharp pain in his lower back. The pain caused him to fall to the deck of the boat.

Immobilized by the severe pain, Berline said Marquez had to call to the chief mate of the boat for assistance.

Maersk Line sent Marquez to a doctor in Singapore, who diagnosed him with injury as a slipped or herniated disc in his lower back.

Thereafter, the seaman was evaluated by a doctor on Saipan who confirmed the Singapore doctor's diagnose.

The Saipan doctor recommended only physical therapy to treat Marquez's injury.

Berline said Maersk has failed to fully and completely discharge its obligations to provide maintenance and cure by failing to pay continually the maintenance and/or cure to Marquez until he is found to achieve maximum medical cure.

Berline said Marquez's injuries and damages were also caused by the vessel's unseaworthy condition as the boat or its part, its gear, equipment, crew, including the spreader bar and its manual release lever, were not reasonably fit for their intended purposes. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CPUC: Expediting time frame on rate decision not necessary

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission said that the Legislature does not have to draft a bill for the commission to hasten the time for rate decisions.

After their meeting on Dec. 10, CPUC commissioner Dave Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that it wasn't really necessary for legislation to take action on CPUC to come up with rate decisions faster.

"It is very important to have a strong report and cover all the issues that need to be covered. If we do so too fast then we might miss a very important issue and we will have to visit and therefore extending what we could have just taken care of in the first place," Guerrero said.

CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero echoed his colleague's words saying that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Legislature have to understand that coming up with rate decisions at a much faster time frame can result in moving back to correct the mistake.

"All in all, bills will be countered to the CPUC act and would be struck out as unenforceable unless you change the CPUC act and change areas of the CPUC act," Joseph Guerrero said.

On Sept. 30, CUC board members discussed bringing up with the Legislature to draft a bill that would fasten CPUC to fasten its rate decisions.

Rep. Lorenzo I Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), who also chairs the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, volunteered to draft a bill, but had yet to receive a response from CUC board members.

Dave Guerrero said that it was not "really necessary" and it just depends on the amounts of issues presented to them to determine when they would get back and deal with whatever proposals that is before them.

"I don't think it is necessary and do see the need to have a decision at a reasonable time and to prolong it generally makes CPUC less better off," he said.

HEADSTART

From Page 1

putting together their final roster to be shared with the board, she said.

Their Early Childhood specialist conducted runs at program centers last week, according to Palacios, to evaluate certification in regards to environmental health and safety for Head Start children.

With their one-time program improvement funds that they recently received for facility projects, Head Start announced that they are 80 percent complete with these projects, she said.

The CIP Office assisted with inspection, she said, before payments were submitted to vendors

"We are very happy with our accomplishments," she told the board. Parents are also leading campus beautification projects doing the weekends, she said.

Health screenings were continuing at the schools, she said. She invited the board to visit program centers and talk with staff, families, and children.

HR 83

From Page 1

Hard work pays off

Passage of H.R. 83 represents two years of work by Sablan to continue several existing policies critical to the health of the Northern Marianas' economy. Six separate bills, including H.R. 83, have been introduced in this Congress, containing the language needed to extend the policies until 2019.

Even as H.R. 83 with its $1.1 trillion funding for the federal government moved closer to final passage, Sablan worked with leadership to have back-up legislation, H.R. 5803, passed by the House on Thursday in the event the massive spending bill failed. In the end, however, Sablan's back-up plan was not necessary.

"I must say again how much I appreciate the assistance of Congresswoman Donna Christensen of the Virgin Islands, who was the original author of H.R. 83 and who allowed her bill to be used to help me get what I needed for the Northern Marianas," Sablan said.

"Senator Lisa Murkowski also played a key role in getting us over the finish line. And Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer helped to guide what turned out to be a very complex and uncertain legislative process to a successful conclusion. We would not have won passage without the participation of these two individuals, especially, and many others in Congress on both sides of the aisle."

Sablan recognized, too, the contribution of CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who understood the importance of the policies that would otherwise have expired on Dec. 31 and communicated his views to the Speaker of the House.

Sablan's language extends for another five years provisions of the 2008 Consolidated Natural Resources Act. One bars claims of asylum from within the Northern Marianas and has helped assure that tourists from China can come to the islands without need of a visa. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that without Sablan's bill the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service would have to spend $16 million to process asylum claims—or end the current system of entry for Chinese tourists. Visitors from China represent over a third of the Commonwealth's tourist trade; and the number is growing.

Sablan's language also keeps in place an exemption from the cap on the number of H visas that can be issued for the Northern Mariana Islands or Guam. Contractors on Guam asked for Sablan's help because short-term, H visa workers will be needed for upcoming military construction on that island. Resort developers in the Northern Marianas, such as the Best Sunshine casino licensee, are likely to require large numbers of temporary construction workers, too.

Lastly, 261 foreign investors, who were allowed into the islands under the Northern Marianas' own immigration law prior to 2009 and were given the right to remain in return for their investment, will be able to continue in a special, grandfathered visa status, E-2C, for five more years.

The giant spending bill also contains tens of millions of dollars for the Northern Marianas in grant funds for everything from childcare and education to water and sewer construction.

As well, H.R. 83 provides tens of millions of dollars in annual grant funding for the Northern Mariana Islands, including about $7 million in water and sewer construction money as a result of a formula change that Sablan and other insular area representatives have successfully in appropriation bills since 2010.

H.R. 83 also adds the insular areas to the places in the United States that can be promoted as part of the national tourism advertising campaign, BrandUSA, and renews the program for another five years.

Inos applauds Sablan, US Congress

Inos, meanwhile, was grateful for the CNMI's nonvoting delegate to U.S. Congress for the passage of H.R. 83, without which the islands' burgeoning tourism industry would've suffered some damage.

"I applaud the untiring efforts by our Congressman Sablan in protecting and fighting for the interests crucial to the CNMI. Furthermore, my administration certainly appreciates the White House's statement in support of the enactment. Congress Sablan's collaborative effort with colleagues such as Senator Lisa Murkowski and Congressman Donna Christensen as well as those across the aisle is an asset dear to the people of the CNMI and should be commended."

The governor said the extension of special immigration provisions for the CNMI will certainly come in handy in growing the Commonwealth's lone industry—tourism.

"As we are all aware, this enactment protects our CW program, our business investors, and our future needs for nonresident labor as we expect a construction boom in our tourism industry. I wish to personally extend my appreciation to Congressman Sablan, each of the 219 members of the House who supported this enactment, President Obama, Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, and those who worked tirelessly to get this bill passed. With this level of collaborative cooperation where everyone has a positive input, the CNMI business community can confidently move forward with expansion and reinvestment plans. "I am equally pleased that it [HR 83] passed the U.S. Senate over the weekend, and now it's on to the White House."

BALAJADIA

From Page 1

priesthood as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Fr. Ryan Jimenez certified his appointment to the position of priest on Saipan.

"After inquiry among the Christian people and upon the recommendation of those responsible, I testify that he has been found worthy," Fr. Jimenez told Apostolic Delegate to the CNMI Archbishop Martin Krebs.

Krebs, an Apostolic Nuncio, in his first pastoral visit to the islands, conferred the ordination by the imposition of hands and the prayer of ordination.

"My dear people, let us pray that God the all-powerful Father will pour out abundantly the gifts of heaven in this, his servant, whom he has chosen for the office of Priest," the Archbishop announced.

After Balajadia acquiesced to the Promises of the Elect, which includes exercising the ministry of the word worthily and wisely, Archbishop Krebs implored the community to not stop supporting Balajadia as his journey has just begun.

"You can't be a priest over night, or even in seven years… He is a brother for all of us now and we must stay beside him in his religious journey," the Archbishop said.

After prostrating himself and promising obedience, the audience resoundingly applauded as Balajadia was vested with a stole, symbolizing his priestly office.

Fr. Jimenez also announced that Balajadia will be assigned to Mt. Carmel Cathedral to serve as parochial vicar. In his remarks, the newly vested priest thanked his family, friends, and members of the community for their unconditional support and love in his journey into the Holy Order.

"To the people of the diocese, my family, friends, parishioners I am so grateful or your presence with me this morning. All of you here are always in my heart and prayers," he said. "Let us continue to pray and work to foster more local vocations to the priesthood and religious life."

His mother, Elizabeth S. Balajadia, said she is elated to see the day of her son's ordination finally arrive.

"It is a happy occasion. It hasn't happened in a long time. I hope that perhaps we will have more," she told the *Saipan Tribune*." I;m at a lost with words. I wish him the best along with the diocese. We are thankful for everyone's prayers. People have been supportive. As we prepared, everyone came around and helped in every way."

His sister, Maria, said that she is overwhelmed with joy. "It's a bit surreal to see someone as devoted as he is to the church, complete this step in his life with an entire island's support," she added.

Santa Remedios parishioner Rick Kautz expressed similar sentiments, saying that the island has a a new shepherd that "will pull the flock together".

Mount Carmel School social studies teacher Rosiky Camacho taught Balajadia during his high school years. Camacho said he got goose bumps when he saw his former student at the altar.

"He finally made it. Now the real work starts," Camacho added. "This is a good addition to the clergy and it is an inspiration to our youth.

Fr. Isaac Ayuyu mentored Balajadia at Santa Soledad parish in the months leading to both his diaconate and priestly ordination.

"Seeing James grow and learn so much with the pastoral duties fills my heart with so much joy," he sad. "I am honored to have mentored him. All the time we put in it is worth it, because now we finally have another local priest to serve the people of God here."

Balajadia, a 2007 Mount Carmel School alumnus, completed his graduate studies and formation to the priesthood at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome after transferring from Mount Angel in Fall of 2012, where he double majored in Philosophy and Literature.

The last ordination in the CNMI took place seven years ago when Fr. Jesse Reyes was ordained a priest.

Balajadia celebrated his first mass at Kristo Rai parish yesterday.

Man allegedly stole grandma's rented TV in exchange for 'ice'

A 21-year-old man allegedly stole her grandmother's rented 30-inch flat screen TV in Kagman and handed it to his friend in exchange for methamphetamine or "ice."

Michael Jesse Aguon Manalo, 21, was arrested for theft on Wednesday, while Shane Joseph Aldan, 28, was arrested for conspiracy and theft on Thursday.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set $10,000 cash bail for Aldan and released Manalo on a $5,000 unsecured bond.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that it was Manalo's mother herself who called the police last Dec. 1 to disclose that her stole his grandmother's TV.

Pangelinan said Manalo immediately confessed committing the crime.

The mother told a responding police detective that her two minor sons witnessed Manalo taking the TV out from their grandmother's house.

The grandmother has been renting the TV from Dial Rent-To-Own.

Pangelinan said during their interview with Manalo, the defendant admitted he took the TV from the room that belongs to his grandmother and gave it to his friend, Aldan, in exchange for two large "ice."

Manalo said Aldan asked him to go ahead and get the TV that because he would just sell it.

Pangelinan said according to Manalo's minor brother, he was in the garage when a red Corolla came and parked in front of the house.

A man with a lot of tattoos on the arms asked him for Manalo so he called his brother. Manalo came out and talked with the man who was later identified as Aldan.

Manalo asked Aldan to park the car on the southern side of the house. Manalo went inside the house and after a few minutes, he came out carrying the TV covered with a white towel.

Manalo put the TV in the backseat of the car and a female passenger of the car handed something to him.

The boy said at the time he was raking outside the house and wanted to observe Manalo because it was not the first time he stole items belonging to their grandmother.

Pangelinan said Manalo also confessed committing to two other separate burglary and theft incidents in Kagman II. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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SCS holds Elementary Christmas Program

Last Tuesday night was the elementary and kindergarteners' turn on center stage as Saipan Community School held its Elementary Christmas Program at the Saipan Community Church in Susupe.

Students from senior kinder to grade 5 performed for family and friends the story of the very first Christmas when Baby Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph in a manger in Bethlehem.

Along the way, old holiday classics like *O Come Let Us Adore Him*, *The First Noel*, *Joy To The World*, Twinkle, *Twinkle Little Star*, and *We Three Kings* as sang by the students serenaded the over 120 who attended the presentation.

SCS principal Bobby Winkfield said the Elementary Christmas Program was a great way to showcase the talents of the school's kindergarten and elementary students as well as teach them a lesson or two about the importance of the very first Christmas.

"The junior high have all sorts of activities like ukulele and the band, but we never had anything for the elementary students. This is their Christmas presentation to their parents and loved ones. The first very Christmas when the special baby was born is very special and each one of the songs had something special to say about Baby Jesus," he said.

MARK RABAGO

Saipan Community School students from senior kinder to grade 5 performed for family and friends the story of the very first Christmas when Baby Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph in a manger in Bethlehem during their Elementary Christmas Program last Tuesday night at the Saipan Community Church in Susupe.

MARK RABAGO

SCS elementary students perform during the school's Elementary Christmas Program last Tuesday night at the Saipan Community Church in Susupe.

"I can't express how important it is. These are things that are told by parents. If they learn this they will know that there is more to Christmas than gifts and all that stuff. Of course they enjoy that stuff but the part the parents should instill in them is the fact that Christmas is about the birth of Christ," added Winkfield.

Justin Benefiel, SCS music teacher and coordinator of the program, said the students and their teachers have been working on Elementary Christmas Program since October.

"Every year as a school we come up with a Christmas program. It kind of shows the talents of the students and also we want to point toward our savior and that's the reason why we have Christmas is for Christ and celebrating His birth. The kids have given a lot of effort, they really worked hard, and did a great job."

Benefiel said he tried to do a traditional spin on Christmas songs for the program.

"I want to take it back to the old historical songs and really focus on the true theology and what they mean. I want the kids to learn what their parents learned back in the day. I looked at what we needed and how the poem fits with the songs and I think it fit quite well."

Winkfield and Benefiel thanked SCS students, their parents, teachers, and school staff, especially maintenance officer, Rommel Tiosejo, for making the Elementary Christmas Program a success.

Marianas Eye Institute's Russ Quinn said he enjoyed the performance Tuesday night as it really made him feel that Christmas Day is fast approaching.

"It's kind of a great way to kick the season off. It's a nice way to start the holidays. They did a great job in putting this together. It's one of the school's highlights. Seeing all the kids performing and singing I'm happy for all of that."

Antonio R. Cabrera, one of the parents who watched the program, said the Elementary Christmas Program was impressive given the enthusiasm of the students.

"It's very nice. The thing I like about it is I really don't care if sometimes they were out of tune. It's the effort that they put in. Overall, I was very impressed." ***(Mark Rabago)***

DUI Sobriety Checkpoints on Dec. 19, 20

The CNMI Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth State Police Division, Traffic Section will be conducting DUI Sobriety Checkpoints on Dec. 19 and 20, 2014.

Dec. 19, 2014

- 1800-1915 hrs. Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan, in front of Garapan Central Park, northbound lane.
- 2000-2115 hrs. Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to the late Dr. Benusto Kaipat's resident, on the southbound lane.
- 2230-2345 hrs. Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dan Dan, in front of Joeten Commercial Building, on the eastbound lane.

Dec. 20, 2014

- 1700-1815 hrs. Beach Road, Susupe, in front of Minatchom Atdao, southbound lane.
- 2030-2145 hrs. Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, adjacent to Pacific Medical Center, northbound lane.
- 2300-0015 hrs. Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, in front of K-Mart, on the northbound lane. ***(DPS)***

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Fiesta SE	EM225301	Gray	$2,500.00
~~Escape S~~	~~EUD1~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$3,000.00~~
Escape S	EUD12669	Blue	$3,000.00
Escape SE	EUB67717	Red	$3,500.00
~~Explorer EcoBoost~~	~~EGB2~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$4,000.00~~
Explorer XLT 4WD	EGB05148	Darkside	$4,000.00
F150 STX 4WD	EKE73316	Silver	$5,000.00

NISSAN	STOCK #	Color	Discount
Altima SV	EC177739	Mocha	$3,000.00
Altima SV	EC157024	White	$3,000.00
Rogue S	EC754914	Silver	$3,000.00
NV200 SV	EK696537	White	$3,000.00
~~Frontier SV~~	~~EN71~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
Frontier PRO4X	EN747027	Red	$4,000.00
Xterra PRO4X	EN807863	Red	$4,000.00
Maxima SV Sport	EC457171	Mocha	$4,000.00
~~Pathfinder Platinum~~	~~EC65~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$5,000.00~~

HONDA	STOCK #	Color	Discount
~~Civic LX~~	~~EE06553~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$2,500.00~~
~~Civic LX~~	~~EE00224~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$2,500.00~~
Civic LX	EE046655	Maroon	$2,500.00
Civic LX	EE065865	Silver	$2,500.00
~~Accord LX~~	~~EA26617~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~Accord EX~~	~~EA18773~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~CR-V LX~~	~~EL02628~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~CR-V EX~~	~~EL02846~~ SOLD	~~Mocha~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~Odyssey EX~~	~~EB11100~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$4,000.00~~

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Teen allegedly threatened to kill mom with machete

A mother and her minor son are claiming they have been living in fear after her other son, who has an attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, has threatened to kill her and has been physically abusing his younger brother.

Jason DeCastro Yamada, 19, was arrested in Dandan on Thursday for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, assault, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set $10,000 cash bail and appointed the Public Defender's Office as counsel for Yamada.

Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 22 at 9am.

Detective Norman L. Skilling stated in his report that two police officers responded to a disturbing the peace incident at a residence in Dandan on Nov. 16 at 8:55am.

Skilling said Yamada's mother told the officers that her son was harassing her while holding a machete.

The mother said Yamada fled the scene after she ran to the neighbor's house to call the police.

The mother disclosed that Yamada has been diagnosed with ADHD but refused to take medication.

The mother said ever since Yamada stopped taking his medication, his behavior has changed and that recently he threatened to kill her while holding a machete.

Yamada also threatened to damage her car.

The suspect got mad because he asked for money and the mother told him that he has stopped receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits because he refused to follow up on hospital appointments.

Yamada also would allegedly punch and kick his younger brother because he thinks that their mother is favoring the younger child.

The mother said she is really scared for her son and her other child's life.

She said sometimes she and the youngest child would sleep in the car at the beach out of fear for Yamada. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Military training at FDM, W-517

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Office of the Governor, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, Governor Eloy S. Inos, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit will be conducting Military Exercises on Farallon De Mendenilla (FDM).

The schedule dates and time are as followed:

Dec. 15-17	9am-5pm	FDM	96 EBS Military training
Dec. 19	7am-12pm	FDM	96 EBS Military training
Dec.15-16	12pm-2pm	W-517	HSC-25 Military training

The general location of this activity will be at Farallon De Mendilla on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants and Area W-517 irregular poly-gon south of Guam comprising southwest into international waters.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity Gov. Eloy S. Inos, is strongly advising the general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CNMI Emergency Operation Center- Dispatch Center at telephone number (670) 237-8000, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

Conviction vacated due to lack of probable cause

The Commonwealth Supreme Court recently vacated a conviction because the police lacked probable cause to stop and search the defendant. The decision addressed four issues, but centered on two. The first was how much proof the police need to provide to show that a place is a high-crime area. The second was whether being at a beach late at night and then attempting to leave when an unidentified vehicle approaches is enough for police to have a reasonable suspicion that the occupants of the car had committed or were about to commit a felony or a traffic infraction.

In deciding how much evidence the government must provide to show a place is a high-crime area, the court noted that calling the place of an arrest a high-crime area was a powerful designation that nearly always authorized a police stop. Because of that, the government could not just ask courts to take the government's word for it; the government must provide objective, verifiable data that a place is, in fact, a high-crime area. Here, the government did not offer objective, verifiable data. Therefore, it was an error to conclude the beach was a high-crime area.

Moving to whether police had probable cause to stop the defendant's car, the court answered no. The government failed to show that the car drove recklessly or attempted to flee from police. At most, the evidence showed that the car was at a beach late at night and that it left when an unidentified vehicle approached. That was not enough to justify a stop because it is long settled that mere presence at night in a place known for illegal activity is not enough. There must be something more.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is Commonwealth v. Crisostomo, 2014 MP 18, and can be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme14.html.

For further information, contact me at 236-9805. ***(PR)***

Saipan Pacific Winds and Manta Band team up for charity Christmas Concert

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The award-winning Saipan Southern High School Manta Band in partnership with the Saipan Pacific Winds community concert band will be presenting a Christmas concert, marking its 21st consecutive year of brining musical cheer to the island.

The concert will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center next Monday evening, Dec. 22 2014, starting at 7pm.

According to Saipan Southern High School band instructor and Pacific Winds founder William DeWitt, a portion of the proceeds will benefit The Salvation Army.

"We are just so excited and blessed to be able to do this event! I hope to see folks from all over our community come out," he said. "This is a can't-miss, one-night-only event."

Although admission to the event is free, DeWitt sad that donations from the public will be gladly accepted and appreciated.

The Manta Band will be co-conducted by DeWitt and SSHS Manta Band president, Junseo Park.

In addition to their festival adjudicated repertoire, which the ensemble will debut next Monday night, audience members will be treated to heart-warming holiday favorites such as *O Holy Night, Adeste Fidelis, Jingle Bells, Silent Night,* and much more.

Band members have recently taken their talents to Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House, London & Beijing Olympic Games, and the Tumon Bay Music Festival,

DeWitt urges members of the community to circle Dec. 22 on your calendar, promising a memorable night of music-making.

Forty of the musicians are also fund-raising for their festival tour to Los Angeles in June 2015 where they've been selected, as one of only five performing ensembles, from among hundreds of national and international applicants to perform at the iconic Walt Disney Hall. The band hopes to raise $130,000. To date, the band members have raised more than $20,000 for the competition.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our beautiful daughter Keaulei Paula R. Deleon Guerrero for receiving the 2nd Grade Student of the Week honors! We are very proud of your accomplishments and your determination in doing excellent in school. Keep it up good work and you are definitely an awesome role model for Bas and Genesis. The family loves you very much!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 15, 2013

US House budget spares CNMI programs from sequestration

CNMI programs dependent on federal dollars will be spared some of the impacts of sequestration or automatic across-the-board budget cuts under a compromise federal budget plan that the U.S. House of Representatives passed on Wednesday. Once the U.S. Senate approves the bill, it would remove the threat of a government shutdown for two years. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 provides $63 billion in relief from the across-the-board sequester cuts that hurt Head Start and other federal programs nationwide. A total of 169 Republicans and 163 Democrats voted in favor; 62 Republicans and 32 Democrats voted against. Sablan said discretionary spending for fiscal 2014 had been scheduled to go down to $967 billion, but is now set at $1.012 trillion for this year and $1.014 trillion for fiscal year 2015. "[This] week, the Senate is expected to pass the bill and President Obama has said he will sign it into law. After that, Congress will have to enact appropriations for fiscal 2014. Appropriations are set to expire on Jan. 15," Sablan said.

7-year-old tops CNMI Got Talent

A 7-year-old singing prodigy is this year's grand prize winner of the 3rd Annual CNMI Got Talent Search, held Saturday night at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Magellan Restaurant. Bernice Shane Sabino's soaring rendition of O Holy Night bested 11 other performances in the talent competition held annually by Bridge Capital LLC. Sabino first bagged $1,000 for winning the Governor's Choice Award before duking it out with Marianas High School's Rhythm N' Harmony in the finals after judges named them the Top 2 of the talent competition. Rhythm N' Harmony, which already won the Best Group award and pocketed $1,000, changed their routine for the final round, singing a different Christmas medley. The second grade student of Green Meadow School stuck to her guns and sang the Christmas classic again in the championship round to get the judges' final nod.

Dec. 15, 2003

CNMI govt gears up for land claims settlement

The long-awaited land compensation money is now with the CNMI government and is ready to be distributed to eligible landowners, according to Gov. Juan N. Babauta. "I'm very glad that it's finally available. In a way I want to apologize to those landowners whose properties had been taken for so many years now but were not compensated in due time," he said. This came following the signing last week in Hawaii of a $40-million general obligation bond with U.S.-based Lehman Brothers.

Babauta said the money is deposited in the CNMI government's account with the Bank of Guam. The actual payments will be made by the Marianas Public Lands Authority in coordination with the Commonwealth Development Authority. Based on the rules and regulations, the government will prioritize the payment for lands used for rights-of-way, then ponding basins, and later wetlands and other claims. MPLA said there are about 120 eligible land claimants in the CNMI. So far, the MPLA has completed the folders of 70 claimants; their claims are now up for approval by the board. Rules provide that the MPLA commissioner recommend a complete land claim settlement to the board for approval. The commissioner shall also publish all land compensation settlement claims in at least one newspaper once a week for two consecutive weeks. The MPLA said the payment to landowners will be based on the valuation at the time of taking by the Commonwealth.

Federal court drops US suit vs the NMI

The U.S. District Court dismissed Friday the federal government's lawsuit against the CNMI to collect debts reaching over $1.34 million, in connection with a contract to fund the drilling of test water wells on Tinian. However, Tinian and Aguigan Mayor Francisco M. Borja remains a party to the lawsuit. The CNMI Supreme Court had certified that Tinian is a chartered municipality that can sue and be sued. In a 15-page ruling, Chief Judge Alex R. Munson upheld the CNMI's contention that the U.S. government failed to state a claim for relief against it. The debt arose from "joint funding agreements" executed by the former mayors of Tinian and Aguigan and the U.S. Geological Survey beginning Oct. 1991 through 1996. The mayors signed the agreements on behalf of the municipality, obligating it to pay the U.S. over $2.76 million. Sometime in 1999, however, U.S. Treasury's Debt Management Services director Charles A. Wilson advised Borja that the Secretary of the Interior would be amenable to a reduced amount of over $1.58 million. Under the compromise, the U.S. required Borja to pay the debt in three installments: $393,648 by Sept. 1, 1999; $619,736 by Sept. 1, 2000; and $575,983.96 by Sept. 1, 2001. The mayor paid only $249,000 for the first installment and never made any other payments.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
AMENDMENT # 02

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the recessed Special Meeting of the Board on Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. will resume on **Wednesday, December 17, 2014** at **10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS

IV. OLD BUSINESS
  a. Mortgage Credit Division
    i. HOME Policies and Procedures

V. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

JUDICIARY
Northern Mariana Islands

Request for Proposals
14-COURTS-02

Janitorial Services for the Guma Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for janitorial services for the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewee/House of Justice, Saipan, for a period of one (1) year.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on or after **November 24, 2014** at the office of the Budget and Finance Director, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp.

A **mandatory** pre-proposal meeting and site visit will be held on **December 16, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.**, local time at the Guma Husistia Conference Room. Any questions or inquiries shall be discussed at the meeting.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP14-COURTS-02** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies to the Budget and Finance Director, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **December 19, 2014, local time, 10:00 a.m.** Proposals must expressly state that the price offered is good for a one (1) year period. Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, December 19, 2014**. Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 19, 2014**, AND the proposal must be received at the Office of the Budget and Finance Director no later than **December 26, 2014, close of business**.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Government and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ Juan Diego V. Tenorio
Budget and Finance Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a Regular Board meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes
    1. October 30, 2014 Meeting
    2. November 10, 2014 Meeting
  E. Correspondence
II. Public Comments*
III. Management Reports
  A. Status Update - Leidos Engineering, LLC Integrated Resource Plan Project
  B. Economists.com – Trend Line
  C. Rota Staffing Requirements
  D. Update on SO1 and SO2
  E. Policy on Name Change
  F. Liability Insurance
  G. Pending Items
IV. Executive Session**
  A. Personnel Matters
  B. Legal Matters
V. Board Reports
VI. Miscellaneous Administrative Matters/New Business
  A. Board Resolution – for the Late CUC Board of Director Evelyn M. Manglona
VII. Adjournment

** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.*
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.*

Salvation Army reminds people of its annual Christmas toy drive

The Salvation Army is conducting its annual Christmas Toy Drive for underprivileged children.

The socio-civic organization is seeking donations of unwrapped toys for children of all ages, from infants through 18 years of age.

Its partners, Bank of Hawaii and Mobil are hosting drop off locations for donations.

Bank of Hawaii has Angel Trees at both branches and donated toys may simply be placed at the boxes near the trees.

Mobil is hosting drop off boxes at four locations:

- Middle Road
- Susupe
- Garapan
- Kagman

The Salvation Army is asking that all donations be made by December 20, 2014.

The Salvation Army is also inviting churches, schools, and interested groups to contact them for information on how to conduct toy drives.

For more information, please call Wayne Gillespie at 483-0885. ***(PR)***

UOG Biology students present work at national conference

University of Guam Biology students Ginger Naburn and Megan Volsteadt recently presented their scientific work at the 2014 Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference, which was held from Oct. 16 to 18 in Los Angeles, CA.

Naburn presented her research about *Polybia*, a genus of wasps. She studied the relationship wasps have with members of their own colonies, versus members of other colonies. She found that wasps recognize members of their colony and let them to return to the nest without issue. The wasps also recognize when other wasps are not part of the colony and will force non-colony members out of the nest. Naburn will be graduating in December 2015 and is interested in pursuing medical school for ophthalmology.

Volsteadt presented her research about the Costa Rican herb *Cuphea racemosa*. Two bee species land on the flower of the herb, and one of those species steals nectar from the plant. Volstead measured seed production, population, pollen grains and overall plant reproduction to determine what effect the stolen nectar has on reproduction. She found there was no significant difference in reproduction for plants that had their nectar stolen by bees. Volsteadt is set to graduate in May 2015 and plans to pursue a career in entomology.

Both students conducted their research as part of the eight-week Native American and Pacific Islander Research Experience Program in Costa Rica held this past summer.

"Presenting my work at a national conference was a great experience," Volsteadt said. "I got to meet a lot of individuals working in the field of science and learn about some of the other types of research out there. It was also a great chance to explain my project and help others understand a relatively unknown herb species."

For more information about the UOG Biology program or NAPIRE, email Dr. Miller at rmiller@uguam.uog.edu. ***(UOG)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-002

POWER SUPPLY RESOURCES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities to supply reliable, affordable energy from commercially proven electric generation resources for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one, or more, proponent(s) to negotiate long-term power supply contracts that best fit CUC's power supply requirements. CUC's requirements for new power supply resources will be determined as part of its Integrated Resource Plan, which is currently underway. More information regarding the Integrated Resource Plan can be found at the CUC's website at http://www.cucgov.org/integrated-resource-plan/.

The RFP documents may be downloaded from the CUC website at http://www.cucgov.org/power-supply-rfp/. It is each proponent's responsibility to ensure they have received all RFP documents posted to this website. An updated checklist will be provided in early January, titled "RFP Document Receipt Checklist and Affirmation" prior to the submittal deadline. In order to reduce the cost to CUC of this procurement and in the interest of sustainable business practices, CUC will not be providing printed RFP materials; all RFP materials will be posted and distributed electronically.

Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, by filling out and submitting a Proponent Registration Form by 10:00 am December 15, 2014 in order to be considered. The Proponent Registration Form is posted to the website at http://www.cucgov.org/power-supply-rfp/ and can be delivered in printed format or electronically via email to the CUC Procurement Contact for Power Supply RFP:

Manny B. Sablan, Jr.
Purchasing Officer
Address: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Third Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg.
P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP, 96950
Office Phone: (670) 236-4303
Email: manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

The deadline for proposal submittals is currently scheduled for January 20, 2015, although this date may be subject to change. Changes to the proposal schedule will be posted as addenda to the Request for Proposal documents.

One printed, hardcopy original and five copies of all proposal material and supporting documents (including the Technical Proposal requirements, the Cost Proposal requirements, and all supplementary data requested as part of Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C) must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 15-002, Power Supply Resources" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 20, 2015. One electronic copy of the Technical Proposal and related documents, and one electronic copy of the Cost Proposal and related documents, in Adobe pdf format on a DVD, also must be delivered with the other printed, hardcopy proposal materials.

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. Questions or requests for clarification will be considered only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than December 17, 2104 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email addressed to manny.sablan@cucgov.org. CUC will host a Pre-Proposal Conference and Webinar on December 4, 2014 to discuss the Request for Proposals and answer questions. Information regarding the Pre-Proposal Conference and Webinar will be provided to registered proponents.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

The post-Gadhafi era is fraught with chaos

Growing violence and destruction have marked Libya's collapse as a nation since the United States intervened alongside the resistance to the rule of Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

No one would dispute the fact that Mr. Gadhafi was a cruel tyrant while he ran Libya from 1969, when his group of young army officers overthrew King Idris, until his death at the hands of rebels three years ago. He was opposed by a disparate collection of tribal and local militias that were backed militarily by the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy and neighboring countries.

What has happened since is causing Libya to become a poster child for the virtues of dictatorial rule in maintaining order. Other candidates for that dubious honor include Egypt, Iraq and Syria as well as some African countries, such as Burkina Faso and Mali.

Libyans have destroyed the last major airport in the capital, Tripoli. Oil production, the backbone of the economy and the desert country's only asset, has become chaotic, in terms of production and marketing.

There are several governments, but no central government. Pieces of the country, even different parts of Tripoli and the second-largest city, Benghazi, are controlled by local militias, and there is no national force capable of defeating them.

Now, an American general is claiming that forces of the Islamic State, which has replaced al-Qaida as America's favorite enemy, are training in the east of Libya. This could be true. There are all manner of military forces operating in lawless Libya now. On the other hand, the general may just be preparing Congress and the American people for another expensive U.S. military intervention.

That would be another mistake, comparable to the first U.S. foray into Libya, to the third U.S. intervention in Iraq now underway and to President Barack Obama's extension of America's military presence in Afghanistan by a year, without approval from Congress or a way to pay for the operations.

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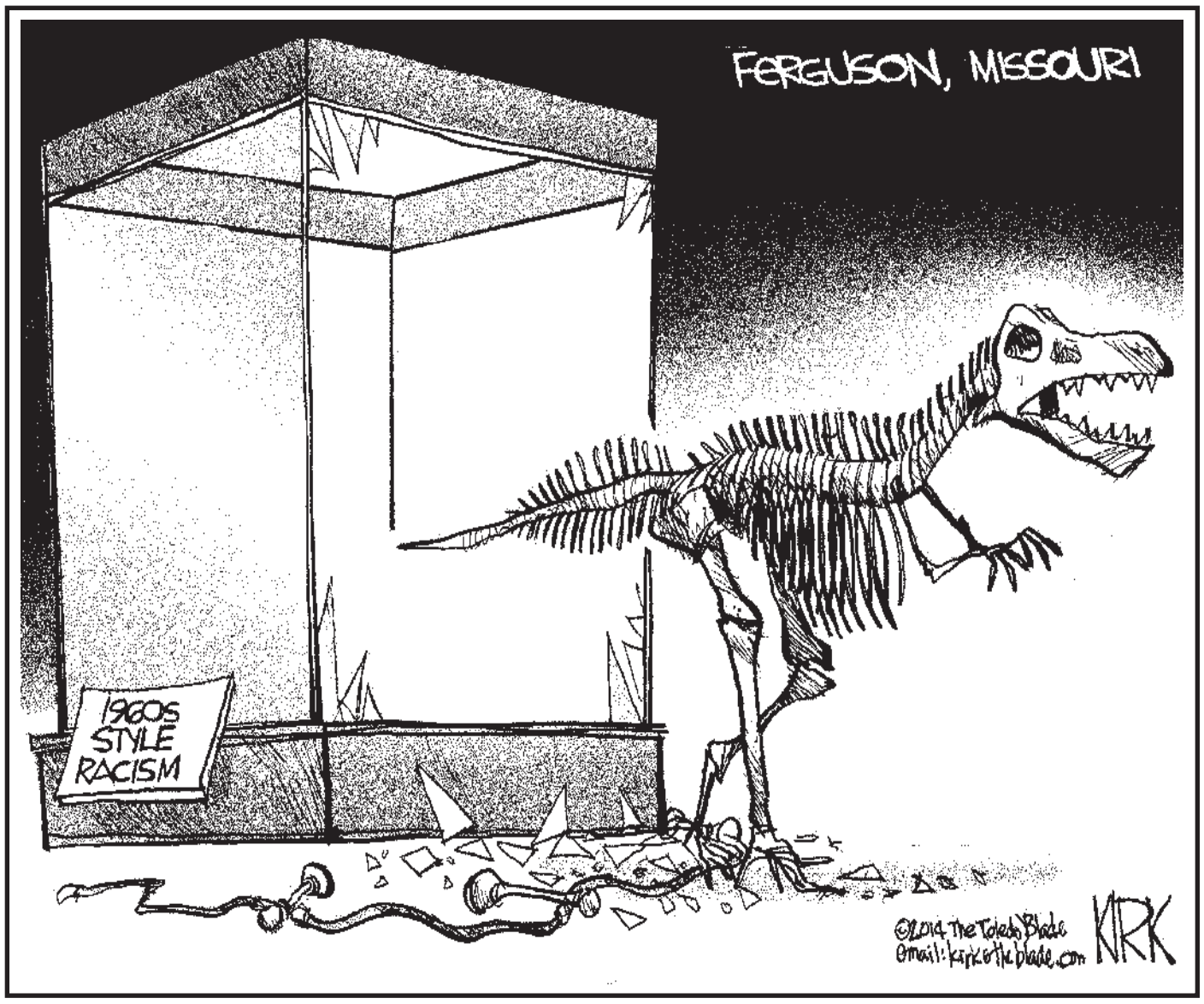


Einstein shunned phones in favor of quiet reflection and solitude

By PAUL HALPERN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Paul Halpern is a professor of physics at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and the author of "Einstein's Dice and Schrodinger's Cat: How Two Great Minds Battled Quantum Randomness to Create a Unified Theory of Physics." He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Today's amazing communication technologies owe much to some of Albert Einstein's greatest discoveries.

For example, the cameras in cellphones and other electronic devices are based on the photoelectric effect, for which Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize. GPS systems take into account the stretching of time due to gravity, another of Einstein's predictions in his magnificent general theory of relativity. Given that many scientists embrace technology, it is interesting to speculate what kind of phone or device Einstein would be using if he were alive today. Would Einstein be texting, tweeting, or video-chatting?

The surprising answer might be none of the above.

By today's standards, Einstein was a loner. He didn't like any kind of phone, which, of course, in his time was a simple landline. Much of his day was spent in silent reflection, save short breaks to discuss ideas with his assistants or to indulge in his passion for music (he loved playing violin).

Sure, he enjoyed fiddling with gadgets. He relished the gift of a compass as a child, and loved tinkering with a microscope given to him at his 50th birthday party. He even invented a kind of refrigerator.

But in terms of communications devices, he liked them as far away as possible. He once declared that he could concentrate best and be most creative "away from the horrible ringing of the telephone," such as on ocean voyages.

In the early 1930s, Einstein spent each summer in a custom-built house in a lakeside village near Potsdam, Germany. The house had no phone. Visitors would write to him in advance or just stop by unannounced. He didn't care if dignitaries surprised him when he was in his pajamas. He argued to his wife that they came to see him, not his clothes.

Einstein loved going sailing, often solo, to be alone with his thoughts and free of intrusions. With the shoreline miles away, and only still waters as company, no one could interrupt his thinking as he pondered theories of nature. He couldn't swim, so whenever he ran into trouble, such as his boat becoming capsized, he waited patiently for a local seafarer to rescue him.

When Einstein relocated to Princeton after the Nazi regime took power in Germany, he became, if anything, even more of a loner.

He spent hours each day barricaded in the upstairs study of his house, working out equations for unified field theories. He gave strict instructions to his wife and secretary that disturbances be kept to a minimum. Sometimes he would feign being sick to ward off visitors. When he went out, he often took quiet walks with his assistants or his close friends such as mathematician Kurt Godel. He loved tete-a-tete chats, and the laughter of children, just not the clamor of phones.

There is a hallowed tradition of great thinkers seeking solitude, from Gautama Buddha, who meditated for many days near a tree until he found enlightenment, to Henry Thoreau, who practiced self-reliance in an isolated cabin on Walden Pond. Philadelphia's "Hermit's Cave," in a quiet part of the Wissahickon, offers an example of such a retreat. Until recently, libraries were chapels of silence, permitting anyone to find a haven for reading and reflection (the strict rules seem to have eased up a bit in many libraries).

Today we are in the midst of a global experiment with instantaneous interconnection. Save isolated wilderness areas, now almost anywhere in the world solitude has become a choice, not a necessity. Yet, to support creative thinkers who might sometimes need time for reflection, we need to maintain the option of periods of disconnection. Just as Walden Pond is now protected land, we need to preserve Waldens of the mind.

Einstein began his career working at a patent office in Switzerland. He was so efficient that he had plenty of time to think about deep questions in physics — leading to his development of the special theory of relativity. Suppose he were working at such an office today and was deluged by e-mails, texts, and calls from his superiors — not only on the job but also after hours. What if they told him that if he didn't respond promptly he could be fired? Where would he find the silent space needed for his creative efforts?

Our society is fortunate today that it has so many opportunities for people connecting electronically. However, following Einstein's lead, we need to offer space for solitude and self-reflection as well. The off button must always be there as a choice.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Corruption: Tiger Flies with Spider

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Two ladies rushed through the automatic till at the subway station on one ticket and no one in the crowd raised an eyebrow on the practice. I do not know how they handled the exit at their destination, but there is an adrenaline rush from aberrant but tolerated behavior among the young who could afford the cost but get a high over getting away with putting one over authorities especially when performed in the midst of a crowd.

Australia, the United States, and Canada do not have any extradition treaty with China so the three countries have been the favored destination of China›s ill-gotten wealth, and in the last thirty years, with the willing collusion of western partners who were schooled to think that corruption is a way of life in China anyway, the exodus of funds and families has been noticeable. It was easy to migrate if one had a hefty bank account to declare, and keeping the money legitimate did not constitute a problem. Western banks strewn in many protective islands around the globe enable corrupt money to find residency in law-abiding countries, of course, cum good and expensive accountants.

China just found a loophole. With Xi Jinping and the CPC Politburo›s current drive against corruption in existing high government offices and officials, China invokes passed UN resolutions that obligates partner nations to assist in bringing known fugitives to justice when called upon.

In the case of Australia, the matter has been beneficial to local authorities as well since ill-gotten funds have a way of not going legitimate, so corrupt monies remain illicit in their new locations, and countries like Australia would rather that such practices be returned to their country of origin rather than find its way in to its own shady underworld. China is in the process of applying the same on those who skipped town and headed over to Canada and the United States. None of the three developed countries mentioned have extradition treaty with China.

Deng Xiaoping used «tigers and flies» in his opening up and reform program that got Chinese businesses getting familiar with Adam Smith. Deng meant that Tigers when tamed can benefit the economy and the flies can be swatted when they swarm. Xi Jinping uses the terms to identify corrupt officials, tigers as the higher ups and flies as those in the lower echelons. Xi intends to eliminate both. One military «tiger» got caught hoarding a ton of foreign currencies in his basement.

«Spider» is a media term used on a former leader who has difficulty relinquishing a leadership role and function by continuing influence either through surrogates and subordinates. Jiang Zemin at 88 fits this category.

Currying for favors was not invented yesterday, and «kowtow» is a habitual local practice. So what passes for corruption in one place can easily become a sign of gratitude and kind consideration in another. E.g., where I live is relatively a new town, a satellite city of Shenyang in the current method of Chinese urban expansion by creating new hubs next to existing centers. At a family gathering, someone who worked in government happened to mention intentions to create a University town and a kin quietly takes the information to heart and bought up farmlands where he constructed new buildings for business and residences.

Ten years later, the relative handed over red envelopes to family members. His 30-story high-rises and apartments had made him oodles of renminbi. He wanted to share «good fortune» with members of his family. The government official remained a faithful and austere employee, barely making mortgage and car payments, worried about his son›s expensive private schooling. So the envelope came as a timely and welcomed reprieve.

Was corruption involved in the deal? Technically, yes. Practically, no. I know that in the late ‘60s, NYC waste disposal contracts had my White Plains in-laws in a cozy corner on signings, but with clear implications on campaign contributions election time. Was corruption involved? Technically, yes. Practically, no.

We all know of the number of drivers licenses issued Chinese nationals in the CNMI, the cost involved not on the published rates but on the understanding of gratuity for services rendered. The applicants thereby sidestepped the rules, a practice familiar to many who grew up in Asia. Many business folks went to EDZA when it was no longer bearable to pay 35 percent of one›s cost, and one was only getting out of the maze in Malacañang.

In Brazil of the ‘80s, law offices served the function of facilitating papers through the official channels at an extra 10 percent of cost. Indonesia almost had a revolution when Mrs. Fifteen percent went beyond the traditional 10 percent of grease money; ditto, Malaysia. China is trying to overcome all that!

That may no longer be as widespread in Saipan as it once was. Bribes are no longer proffered nor requested. «What for?» a wit mused. «We issue vouchers!»

Trudy Rubin: Different approach on Syria

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

When Staffan de Mistura took over as special United Nations representative on the Syria crisis — with the task of ending the violence — he faced a mission impossible.

Three years of brutal civil war have smashed the country to bits, with major cities reduced to rubble. About 200,000 Syrians have died, eight million (out of a population of 22 million) are internally displaced, and three million are refugees in neighboring countries. The chaos has spawned ISIS.

De Mistura's two predecessors, both distinguished diplomats, gave up after failing to jump-start a broad peace process in Geneva. The Assad regime, backed by Russia and Iran, wouldn't budge. Sunni rebels, backed by the Gulf states and (halfheartedly) by Washington, were fragmented.

So this urbane Italian-Swedish diplomat knew he had to address the problem from a different angle. Decades of experience in conflict zones from Kosovo to Iraq to Afghanistan haven't dimmed his positive outlook, but have destroyed any illusions.

"I came to the conclusion at this stage that we needed to try a different way," he told me from Rome in a phone interview. Instead of going big — and promoting another top-down Geneva peace plan — de Mistura decided to start small.

His plan — he stresses that it is an "action plan," not a "peace plan" — is to work bottom-up and try to "freeze" the violence in certain locations. The aim is to persuade the regime and rebel groups to stop the violence, permit humanitarian aid, and try to begin a local dialogue among factions. If a "freeze" worked in one city, it might provide the impetus for another, ultimately leading to a broader political dialogue.

Skeptics deride the idea, but I think it's worth a closer look.

The first place de Mistura wants to test his idea is historic Aleppo. Once Syria's largest and richest city, it is now caught in a brutal three-way battle by regime forces, rebel groups, and ISIS. Regime barrel bombs have slaughtered civilians, and the ancient town center has been devastated by shelling.

Why start there? "Because it is symbolic," de Mistura replied, "a city that is home to all religious groups and the last major city that is contested. ISIS is waiting to take advantage . If we can succeed there, we can use it as a sign of hope."

By a "freeze," de Mistura doesn't mean the kind of local cease-fire accepted by desperate rebels in other cities, such as Homs, where they gave up all but their light arms and essentially accepted defeat. His idea is that all sides would stop in place, with rebels keeping their weapons.

What if ISIS refused a freeze after the other two sides accepted? "It would be up to the American-led coalition to address the threat of ISIS, if ISIS threatens a city where the conflict had been frozen," he said. "I hope the American-led coalition would signal that this would be a bad idea."

Skeptics will note that Bashar al-Assad is on the verge of defeating the dozen or so non-jihadi rebel groups in Aleppo, who are caught between the regime and ISIS. So why would he stop now? De Mistura, who had an "intense" meeting with Assad, answers carefully when I ask if the Syrian president would agree to a freeze: "He has indicated publicly that he would consider this, but the devil is in the details." He added that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has "indicated that (Assad) would give this a chance."

Other Syria experts are more dubious. "De Mistura is scrambling to find the key to a political-diplomatic process, one in which Assad is profoundly uninterested (because he) believes Iran and Russia will keep the regime in its seat," says Fred Hof, a former senior State Department official now at the Atlantic Council.

However, there are reasons why Assad might consider a freeze.

"The regime doesn't want to go in and take Aleppo," says Joshua Landis of the University of Oklahoma. "It just doesn't want the rebels to have it." A freeze in Aleppo would enable Assad to focus on attacking rebels elsewhere.

Not surprisingly, while some rebels in Aleppo are interested in the freeze because it would save them and many civilians, rebel groups outside are wary. De Mistura is trying to convince them that "what is at stake is the survival of their own people and saving Aleppo."

In the end, the rebels might accept a freeze to prevent the fall of Aleppo, the last major city in which they have a foothold. This would give them a breather as they wait for Washington to decide whether to endorse a buffer zone along the Syrian-Turkish border, where refugees could find safety and moderate rebels could train.

The real question is whether a freeze in Aleppo could lead to incremental freezes elsewhere, which could ultimately foster a larger peace process. That is harder to imagine.

Still, de Mistura, who could be relaxing on the Isle of Capri, where he is honorary Swedish consul, is instead plowing ahead, propelled by his belief that "everybody in Syria has become tired, everyone agrees there is no military solution, everyone is a loser."

"He's doing the best he can in a limited situation," says Landis. "You have to go small with a prayer, to be there on the ground if an opening occurs in the future."

Hats off to de Mistura. Sisyphus had an easier task.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Right to own handguns

Senator Pete Reyes and Department of Public Safety Commissioner James DeLeon Guerrero's idea to make handgun ownership very difficult is a violation of every law-abiding citizens' right to own handguns. The CNMI's existing firearms law is very stringent and one of the most restrictive under the jurisdiction of the U.S.A. The law does not need to be more restrictive.

The idea that handgun ownership by law-abiding citizens will cause chaos, more crime, and require a need for more policemen is ridiculous. This idea comes from baseless assumptions and speculation; it is not proven by facts. If what the commissioner and the senator say are true then Chicago would have few handgun crimes and Phoenix would have multiple times more.

Senator and commissioner, stop misleading the public. The criminals already have their handguns. If they don't, they will find ways to get one even under the existing gun law. You are just punishing law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves from criminals and home invaders with your misguided opinions and assumptions. Criminals by definition do not abide by the law. Any law restriction on gun ownership does not affect the criminals; it affects the law-abiding citizen.

Guam, our neighbor, does not have chaos and rampant handgun crimes because handguns are readily available for their law-abiding citizens. They also do not make regulations to discourage their law-abiding citizens from bearing firearms—be it handguns, rifles, or shotguns.

Stop the fear mongering and try to concentrate on solving unsolved crimes. Focus on catching those criminals; focus on keeping the public safe and bringing closure to those victims and their families, rather than spending more time and energy on trying to restrict the gun rights of law abiding citizens. What the police force needs is more training in investigating many unsolved crimes. Concentrate also on the elimination of the importation or manufacturing of the drug "ice" or meth, which is devastating the lives of our young men and women in our islands.

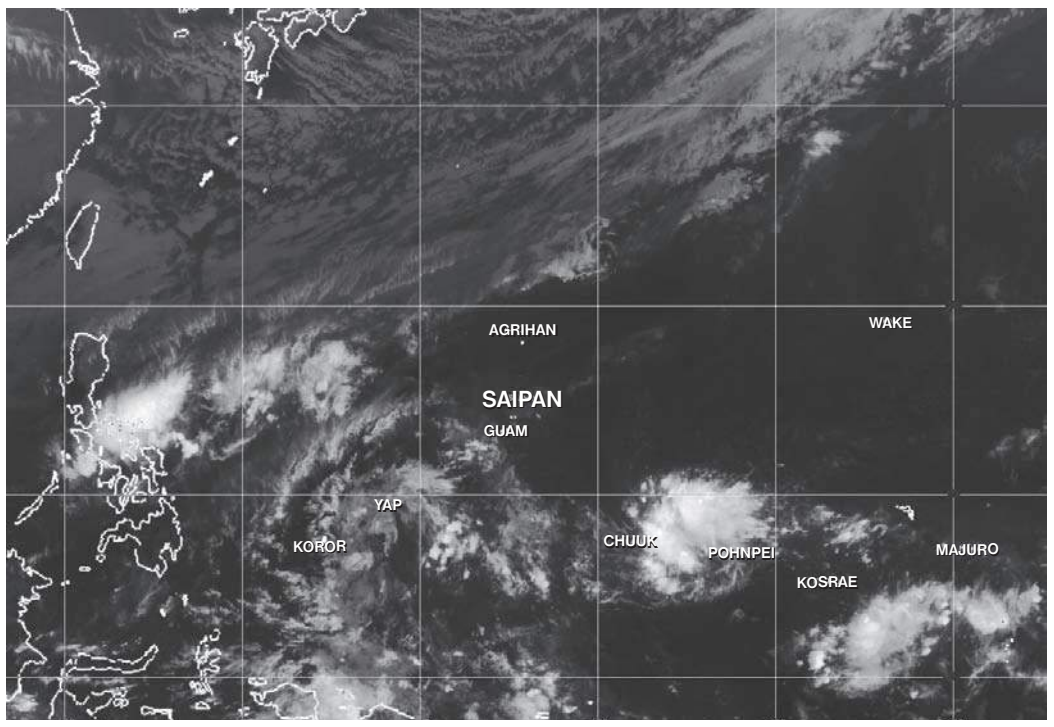
Joseph I. Pangelinan
Garapan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast to east winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N150E to beyond 130E at 16N. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found north and northwest of the Marianas along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. Low-level convergence southeast of the shear line is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Koror and Yap within 110 miles of a line from 17N138E to 14N130E. A tropical disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Yap and Koror within 240 miles of a line from 1N136E to 10N145E. Scattered showers are also found over Chuuk between 9N and 6N from 149E to 154E. A weak disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in Pohnpei state within 70 miles of a line from 5N156E to 10N162E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Tarawa and Butaritari atolls between 5N and the equator from 165E to 177E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲66	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼18
Hong Kong	Windy	▲64	▼49
Honolulu	Windy	▲79	▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼52
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Windy	▲87	▼55
Miami	Sunny	▲76	▼62
New York	Sunny	▲45	▼37
Osaka	Rain	▲47	▼34
Paris	Showers	▲46	▼41
Pusan	Windy	▲39	▼22
Rome	Cloudy	▲61	▼55
Salem	Showers	▲49	▼39
San Francisco	Rain	▲56	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲24	▼ 7
Tokyo	Rain	▲55	▼38
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼39

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
2:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:16 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Wednesday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Thursday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:15 AM	12:36 PM
Tuesday	1:03 AM	1:14 PM
Wednesday	1:51 AM	1:55 PM
Thursday	2:41 AM	2:38 PM
Friday	3:34 AM	3:25 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

2014 SHRM conference to discuss immigration issues

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will be hosting its 2014 Annual Conference on the topic of "Current Immigration Issues for the CNMI," a topic of continuing concern for all HR professionals, managers, and employers. SHRM's guest speakers, noted immigration attorneys from both the CNMI and Guam will address a variety of immigration issues ranging from the recent CW-1 visa program extension, the uncertainty of the E2C program, the effect of the Presidents Executive Order, and other current issues. Our Speakers will provide an opportunity for questions from the audience.

Attorneys Maya Kara and Bruce Mailman, partners in the noted local CNMI law firm, Mailman & Kara, LLC, the CNMI's foremost specialists in U.S. immigration law, will first address the CW-1 visa program and its recent extension, clarifying what the extension does and what it does not do. They will also discuss problems employers encounter and how to avoid RFEs and denials. They will also discuss President Obama's recent Executive Action, the deferred action programs for children and parents, who qualifies and how this action applies in the CNMI.

Attorney Nelson J. Xu, a partner in Bauman, Kondas & Xu, one of Guam's leading law firms in U.S. immigration and business law, will discuss how the current uncertainty of the E2C program for CNMI investors and the termination of H visa cap exemption serve as a stern warning that the Congress is determined to completely integrate CNMI into the U.S. immigration system. He will explore the U.S. immigration options for employees and families in the Commonwealth and examine the different categories of employment and family-based immigration as well as the various kinds of popular U.S. working visas available to the Commonwealth."

This meeting will be held this Thursday, Dec. 18, at Charley's Cabaret, PIC, from 8am to 1:30pm. The presentation includes lunch at a cost of $30 for SHRM members and $40 for non-members. Seats are limited and can be reserved by contacting Micah Parico-Acuavera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail at corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com, or Nora Sablan by phone at 235-0994/8 or by e-mail at Nora.Sablan@fhphealth.com.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit their website at http://nmichapter.shrm.org. ***(SHRM)***

BREAK TIME CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Shirley's Coffee Shop youth team take a break during the Saipan Soccer School's Youth Festival held last Dec. 13 at the Koblerville Elementary School field.

Kang sentenced for harboring illegal aliens

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced that Kenneth Huidong Kang was sentenced by Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, in the District Court of Guam for Harboring Illegal Aliens and Criminal Conspiracy.

Kang, 39, was sentenced to six months imprisonment and two years supervised release, to include six months home detention under the location-monitoring program. Kang was also ordered to pay a $3,000 fine.

During the period from or about January 2006 and lasting until December 2008, Kang worked at Club Musha, later renamed to Club Music. Kang worked at the establishment as a manager where he conspired with others to conceal Korean women who had entered Guam as tourists under the Guam Visa Waiver Program. The Guam Visa Waiver Program allowed Korean citizens to enter Guam as tourists for a limited time of 15 days. The real purpose for these Korean women to enter Guam was for them to work at Club Music. Kang further allowed some of these Korean women to reside at his Yigo residence while they illegally worked at Club Music and he did so for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security/ Homeland Security Investigations, and prosecuted by former Assistant U.S. Attorney Karon V. Johnson and Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen F. Leon Guerrero. ***(PR)***

Mariner rescued after several hours adrift off Maui

HONOLULU—A man is safe after being rescued from a disabled boat approximately 46 miles southwest of Kahoolawe, Maui, Saturday.

At 10:15 a.m., watchstanders at the Coast Guard Sector Honolulu command center received notification from a friend of the vessel's operator reporting that the 19-foot boat was disabled. The mariner contacted his friend using a cell phone. An approximate position was determined using information form the cell phone call.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew and the 378-foot Coast Guard Cutter Rush were diverted to search. An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew launched from Air Station Barbers Point and a 45-foot Response-Boat Medium crew launched from Station Maui.

The disabled boat was spotted at 7:06 p.m. when the Hercules aircrew noticed the mariner waving a flashlight. The airplane crew passed the boat's position to the Dolphin helicopter crew. The Dolphin crew arrived at 7:26 p.m. and deployed a rescue swimmer. The rescue swimmer and passenger were safely hoisted at 7:50 p.m.

At 8:29 p.m., the man was safely transferred to awaiting EMS at Kahului Airport in stable condition.

On-scene conditions were seas of more than ten feet and 40 mph winds.

The vessel remains adrift and the Coast Guard is issuing a broadcast notice to mariners notifying them of the hazard to navigation.

Maritime accidents can occur quickly and without warning to even the most experienced mariners. Mariners should ensure they have all appropriate safety equipment aboard and know how to use it. This includes a VHF marine band radio, flares and life jackets that can greatly increase the chances of survival in an emergency. The Coast Guard recommends mariners not rely on cell phones for emergency communications as they can be unreliable offshore. VHF radios allow communication with all vessels in an area increasing the chance that a distress call will be received.

For more information on recommended safety equipment visit www.uscgboating.org. ***(USCG)***

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at 09:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. TCGCC Employee Salaries
   b. Casino Employee License Applications and Hotel Registrations

IV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]

V. **MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2014 ELECTION CANDIDATES and POLITICAL PARTIES

Public Law 12-18, the "Northern Mariana Islands Election Reform Act of 2000" (the Act), requires all certified candidates to file a detailed campaign statement of account. This itemized Statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified statement by **December 24, 2014**, shall subject you to a fine of up to **$100 per day** for each day the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account" form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is **mandatory**.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Notary Service Schedule:

Saipan:
Office of the Public Auditor
Monday through Friday
8am to 4:30pm

Rota:
Rota Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Wednesday, December 17, 2014 – 9am to 4:30pm
Thursday, December 18, 2014 – 9am to 12:00pm

Tinian:
Tinian Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Monday, December 15, 2014 – 8:30am to 4:30pm

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE NMC 1981

NOTICE OF MEETING
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS' REGULAR MEETING

Date: **Thursday, December 18, 2014**
Time: **9:00a.m**
Place: **BOR Conference Room**
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

I. **Call Meeting to Order** (9:00a.m – 9:40a.m)
   a. Roll Call
   b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
   c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
      1. September 17, 2014 – Regular Meeting
      2. October 01, 2014 – Special Meeting
      3. November 07, 2014 – Special Meeting
      4. November 25, 2014 – Special Meeting

II. **Public Comment Period:** Individuals may orally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. (9:40a.m – 9:50a.m)

III. **Chairperson's Report**

IV. **Reports and Action from Standing Committees** (9:50a.m – 10:50a.m)
   a. Fiscal Committee Report
   b. Program Committee Report
   c. Personnel Committee Report

V. **Old Business (10:50a.m – 11:15a.m)**

VI. **New Business (11:15a.m – 12:40p.m)**
   a. CWAP Plan and Proposed Budget (Action Item)
   b. Supplemental Budget for Nursing, Education and Business Departments (Action Item)

VII. **NMC Executive Reports (12:40p.m – 2:00p.m)**
   a. President's Report
      1. WASC Accreditation Update
      2. Chief Financial Officer Report

VIII. **Legislative Updates**

IX. **Board of Regents Election of Officers**
   a. Chairperson
   b. Treasurer

X. **Board Meeting Assessment (2:00p.m – 2:10p.m)**

XI. **Executive Session** (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
   a. President Hart's Annual Performance Evaluation

XII. **Upcoming Board Activities (2:10p.m – 3:30p.m)**
   a. Upcoming Events / Activities
   b. Schedule Next Regular Meeting
      1. February 11 – BOR Retreat
      2. February 12 – BOR Committee Meetings
      3. February 13 – BOR Regular Meeting

XIII. **Adjournment (4:30p.m)**

/s/Frank M. Rabauliman
BOR Chairperson Date: December 12, 2014

Business

Congress sends Obama $1.1 T spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress cleared a $1.1 trillion spending bill for President Barack Obama's signature late Saturday night after a day of Senate intrigue capped by a failed, largely symbolic Republican challenge to the administration's new immigration policy.

The vote was 56-40 in favor of the measure, which funds nearly the entire government through the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year. It also charts a new course for selected shaky pension plans covering more than 1 million retirees, including the possibility of benefit cuts.

The Senate passed the bill on a day Democrats launched a drive to confirm two dozen of Obama's stalled nominees to the federal bench and administration posts, before their majority expires at year's end.

Several Republicans blamed tea party-backed Texas Sen. Ted Cruz for giving the outgoing majority party an opportunity to seek approval for presidential appointees, including some that are long-stalled.

It was Cruz who pushed the Senate to cast its first vote on the administration's policy of suspending the threat of deportation for an estimated four million immigrants living in the country illegally. He lost his attempt Saturday night, 74-22, although Republican leaders have vowed to bring the issue back after the party takes control of the Senate in January.

AP

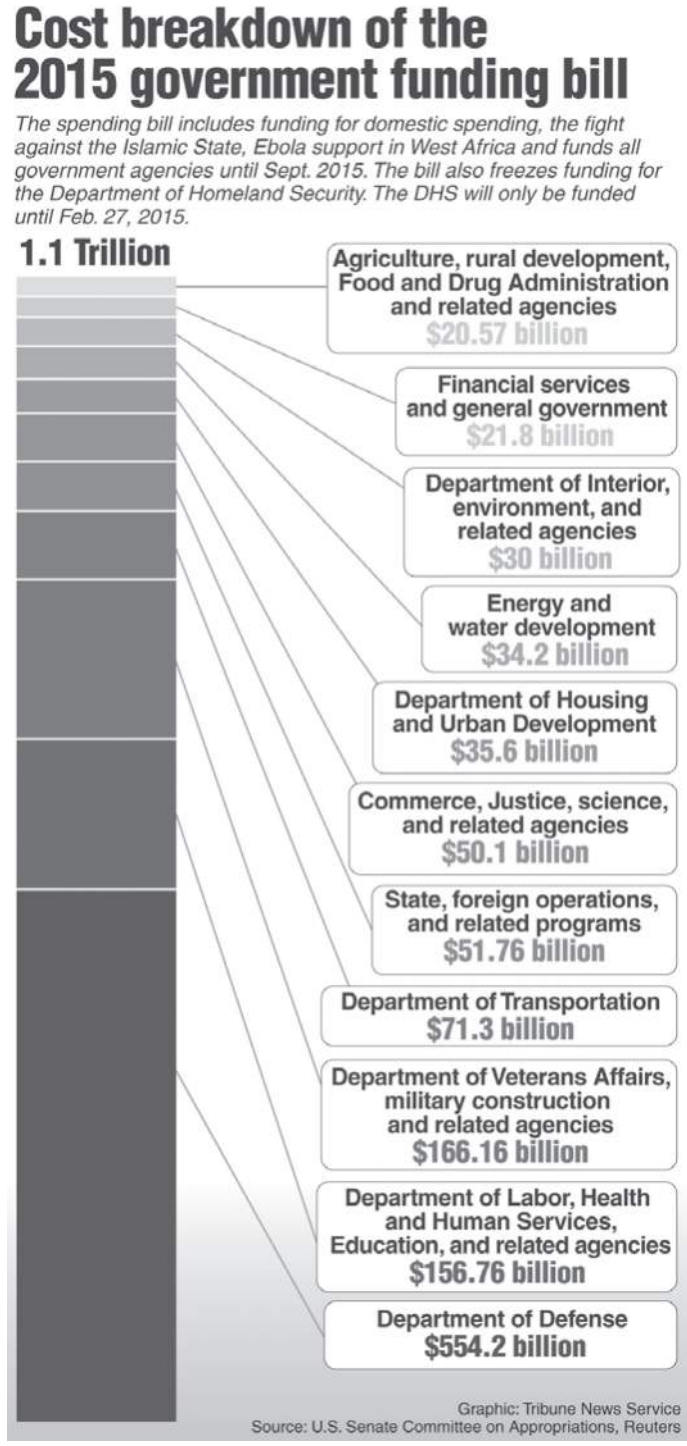
Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) talks with reporters after the Senate voted on a $1.1 trillion spending bill to fund the government through the next fiscal year on Saturday, December 13, 2014 on Capitol Hill in Washington.

"If you believe President Obama's amnesty is unconstitutional, vote yes. If you believe President Obama's amnesty is consistent with the Constitution, vote no," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid rebutted instantly, saying Cruz was "wrong, wrong, wrong on several counts," and even Republicans who oppose Obama's policy abandoned the Texan.

The spending bill, which cleared the House on Thursday, was the main item left on Congress' year-end agenda, and exposed fissures within both political parties in both houses.

It faced opposition from Democratic liberals upset about the repeal of a banking regulation and Republican conservatives unhappy that it failed to challenge Obama's immigration moves.


Cost breakdown of the 2015 government funding bill
The spending bill includes funding for domestic spending, the fight against the Islamic State, Ebola support in West Africa and funds all government agencies until Sept. 2015. The bill also freezes funding for the Department of Homeland Security. The DHS will only be funded until Feb. 27, 2015.
1.1 Trillion
Agriculture, rural development, Food and Drug Administration and related agencies $20.57 billion
Financial services and general government $21.8 billion
Department of Interior, environment, and related agencies $30 billion
Energy and water development $34.2 billion
Department of Housing and Urban Development $35.6 billion
Commerce, Justice, science, and related agencies $50.1 billion
State, foreign operations, and related programs $51.76 billion
Department of Transportation $71.3 billion
Department of Veterans Affairs, military construction and related agencies $166.16 billion
Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies $156.76 billion
Department of Defense $554.2 billion
Graphic: Tribune News Service
Source: U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Reuters

Crew in Korean Air nut rage says he was insulted

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A Korean Air flight attendant described being insulted and shamed by the airline's executive who ordered him removed and the plane returned over macadamia nuts, and then being asked to lie about the incident to investigators.

The "nut rage" drama has captivated South Korea with tales of outrageous behavior followed by public apologies from the executive and her father, the airline's chairman.

Cho Hyun-ah, who has since resigned as head of cabin service at Korean Air, was angered when a flight attendant in first class offered her macadamia nuts in a bag, not on a plate. She ordered him off the plane and forced the flight to return to the gate at John F. Kennedy airport in New York City.

"People who haven't experienced will not understand that feeling of being insulted and shamed," senior flight attendant Park Chang-jin told South Korea's KBS television network on Friday.

After being confronted about the nuts, he said he and his colleague kneeled down before Cho.

He said Cho poked the back of his hand with a corner of the flight manual book several times.

According to Park, Cho yelled at the crew to "call right now and stop the plane. I will stop this plane from leaving." Park said that in such a situation, he could not dare to refuse the "owner's daughter."

When Park returned to South Korea on a separate flight after being forced out from the plane, five to six officials from Korean Air came to visit his home every day and asked him to give a false account to authorities of what happened, he told KBS. The officials asked him to tell investigators that Cho did not use abusive language and that he voluntarily got off the plane, Park said.

Korean Air confirmed that Park was the senior flight attendant—or head of cabin crew—who was on the flight with Cho Hyun-ah and who had to leave the plane. The company declined to comment on the matter under investigation by the transport ministry and prosecutors.

Fish farming finds its way to land-locked Midwest

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—The latest of five generations who have worked the same ground in northeastern Nebraska, 52-year-old Scott Garwood, isn't growing corn or cattle—it's fish.

Specifically, thousands of an Australian freshwater species called barramundi—often dubbed Asian sea bass because of its similar sweet, white flaky flesh—in large tanks inside a warehouse.

With global consumption of seafood outpacing wild fish populations, many have turned from roving the world's waters to aquaculture, using coastal net pens or ponds to raise freshwater and saltwater species. But the emerging trend of indoor aquaculture is bringing the surf to America's turf.

Farmers are increasingly embracing the practice as a way to stay in agriculture and participate in what's billed as "green" food production, with virtually no chance of their fish spreading disease or genetic mutation into the wild. And such tank systems can be placed almost anywhere—from Minnesota to Florida—because temperature and water quality can be controlled.

Moreover, there's a market for these land-grown fish. The U.S. imports more than 90 percent of the 4.5 billion pounds of seafood it consumes a year.

Globally, aquaculture supplies more than 50 percent of all seafood produced for human consumption, but only a fraction comes from the United States, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries. Even less is known about how much the U.S. produces in indoor tanks.

"I'm afraid to tell you, the U.S. is way behind the rest of the world in terms of developing aquaculture or keeping up with production of aquaculture," says Dr. Yonathan Zohar, chairman of the Department of Marine Biotechnology at the University of Maryland. "If you look at the U.S. production numbers, it's mostly catfish—which is a good industry, but we need to be looking at some of the marine species we've been running out of."

Some critics have suggested that the tanks—sometimes called closed containment systems—could be susceptible to catastrophic losses in the event of a power and backup generator outage. But Zohar, whose life work is in aquaculture, says the advantages outweigh "what-if" scenarios. Land-based tank fish farming nearly eliminates fish manure runoff and water waste through use of water recirculating and treatment systems, he noted.

Oil plunges again, reaches recession-level depths

NEW YORK (AP)—Another forecast of weak global demand, another nosedive for oil.

A 6-month rout in the price of oil accelerated this week, culminating in a 4 percent drop Friday—its third such drop in 5 days—to its lowest level since May of 2009, when the U.S. was still in recession. Friday's trigger was a lowered expectation for oil consumption from the International Energy Agency.

The benchmark U.S. oil price closed down $2.14 to close at $57.81 a barrel in New York. It is now 46 percent below its late-June high for the year of $107.26. Brent crude, the international standard used to price oil purchased by many U.S. refineries, fell 77 cents to close at $61.85.

In its monthly oil report, the IEA said global oil demand in 2015 will grow by 900,000 barrels a day—230,000 less than previously forecast—to 93.3 million barrels a day.

The agency said the reduction was a result of "the ever-more tentative pace of the global economic recovery."

It was the latest in a string of reports and forecasts that suggest that there is far more oil being produced globally than there is demand for it.

OPEC said Wednesday that higher production from non-OPEC members and weak global economic growth will reduce demand for its oil to 28.9 million barrels a day next year. That's the lowest level in more than a decade, and less than the 30 million barrels per day that the group says it plans to produce next year.

Also on Wednesday, the Energy Department reported a surprise increase in U.S. crude supplies of 1.5 million barrels. Analysts were expecting a decline of 2.2 million barrels. Gasoline stocks also increased more than expected.

Nation

Thousands protest police slayings of black men

WASHINGTON (AP)—Family members of young, unarmed black men killed by police—from Michael Brown and Eric Garner in recent months, to Amadou Diallo more than 15 years ago—packed a stage in front of the U.S. Capitol on Saturday, using a shared forum to urge thousands of supportive marchers to keep up the pressure for changes to the criminal justice system.

The march in Washington coincided with demonstrations across the country, from iconic Fifth Avenue in New York to the streets of San Francisco and the steps of the Boston Statehouse—mostly peaceful protests although about two dozen people were arrested in the Massachusetts capital for disorderly conduct.

"My husband was a quiet man, but he's making a lot of noise right now," said Washington protest marcher Esaw Garner, widow of Eric Garner, 43, who died in July after being put in a chokehold by New York City police during an arrest for allegedly selling loose, untaxed cigarettes.

"His voice will be heard. I have five children in this world and we are fighting not just for him but for everybody's future, for everybody's past, for everybody's present, and we need to make it strong."

Nationally, marchers chanted "I can't breathe!" "Hands up, don't shoot!" and waved signs reading "Black lives matter!" Demonstrators also staged "die-ins" as they lay down across intersections and in one city briefly scuffled with police blocking an onramp to a highway.

Organizers had predicted 5,000 people at the Washington march, but the crowd appeared to far outnumber that. They later said they believed as many as 25,000 had shown up. It was not possible to verify the numbers; Washington police do not release crowd estimates.

SERVE? PROTECT?
#BLACK
Learn to do right Seek Justice defend the Oppressed Take up the cause of the Fatherless, Plead the case of the Widow -Isaiah 1:17
End Police Terror! RACISM is the Disease, REVOLUTION is the Cure!
STOP
End Police Terror! RACISM is the Disease, REVOLUTION is the Cure!
BLACK LIVES MATTER
WE MARCH TO END RACIAL PROFILING
InJustice to one IS InJustice to ALL
CLU

AP

Demonstrators march on Pennsylvania Avenue toward Capitol Hill in Washington, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014, during the Justice for All rally.

Garner's mother, Gwen Carr, called the demonstrations a "history-making moment."

"It's just so overwhelming to see all who have come to stand with us today," she said. "I mean, look at the masses. Black, white, all races, all religions. ... We need to stand like this at all times."

Joining the Garners in Washington were speakers from the family of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old killed in Ohio as he played with a pellet gun in a park, and the mother of Amadou Diallo, who in 1999 was shot and killed in the Bronx by four New York City police officers.

Diallo's mother, Kadiatou Diallo, reflected on how the same issues being debated today were debated when her son was killed more than 15 years ago.

"We've been there so many times," she said. "Today we are standing still and demanding the same thing."

The Rev. Al Sharpton helped organize the marches.

"Members of Congress, beware we're serious ...," Sharpton said in Washington. "When you get a ring-ding on Christmas, it might not be Santa; it may be Rev. Al coming to your house."

Several speakers asked the crowd to chant, "I can't breathe." Garner, 43, had gasped those words before his death. Some protesters also wore those words on shirts.

Protests—some violent—have occurred around the nation since grand juries last month declined to indict the officers involved in the deaths of Garner and Michael Brown, 18, shot and killed by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. Before the crowd started marching, Sharpton directed, "Don't let no provocateurs get you out of line. ... We are not here to play big shot. We are here to win."

Washington, D.C., and U.S. Park Police said they had made no arrests in the capital protests, though a small group of protesters split off after the march and briefly occupied various intersections in downtown Washington.

Prosecutor releases more Ferguson documents

A prosecutor released hundreds of pages of additional documents Saturday from the investigation into the police shooting of Michael Brown, including an interview transcript of a friend who initially asserted that he had seen Brown get shot in the back.

St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch said the newly released records were inadvertently excluded from the thousands of pages of other documents made public Nov. 24, when a grand jury decided not to charge Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson for killing Brown.

The freshly publicized documents include a transcript of an interview of Brown's friend Dorian Johnson conducted by the FBI and county police just four days after the Aug. 9 confrontation in which the white officer shot the black 18-year-old. Previously released forensic evidence showed that Brown was not shot in the back but was struck by bullets in the head, chest and arm.

Johnson's account to investigators was generally similar to his later grand jury testimony, in which he portrayed Wilson as the aggressor during a struggle that began at the officer's vehicle and led to a brief chase before Brown's fatal shooting.

In both his original interview and his Sept. 10 grand jury testimony, which was previously released, Johnson said that Wilson reached out of his vehicle window toward Brown's throat or shirt. During the ensuring struggle, Johnson said he never saw Brown touch Wilson's gun.

Wilson told grand jurors that Brown grabbed ahold of his weapon and twisted it toward the officer's leg. The officer eventually fired his gun from inside the vehicle. Forensic evidence showed that Brown's hand was shot at close range. Brown and Johnson then ran.

In his August interview, Johnson initially was adamant that he had seen Johnson get shot in the back while running. "It definitely struck him in his back," Johnson said, later adding: "It caused him to stop." ***(AP)***

ACROSS THE NATION

Hundreds at funeral for woman burned alive

BATESVILLE, Miss. (AP)—About 400 mourners packed a chapel in Mississippi on Saturday to say goodbye to a 19-year-old woman who was burned alive, among them classmates who used permanent markers to write heartfelt messages on her white metal coffin. "Fly high, Jessica," said some, a reference to the former cheerleader's aerial acrobatics, according to the Rev. Eric Greggs, one of three speakers at the 45-minute service. Chambers graduated from South Panola High last year and worked in sales at a Batesville clothing and gift shop. Alabama author Linda Oliver said Chambers had recently asked her to help write a book about her life.

Man arrested after Portland shooting, 2 sought

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A 22-year-old man arrested in connection with a shooting outside an alternative high school in Portland had ties to a gang, as did two of the victims, police said Saturday.

Sgt. Pete Simpson said Lonzo Murphy is a "person of interest" in the Friday shooting, but officers aren't prepared to say whether he was the gunman, Simpson said.

Authorities are trying to find two other people connected to the shooting near Rosemary Anderson High School. Three were hospitalized, including a 16-year-old girl who was critically wounded, and a fourth person was grazed by a bullet and treated at the scene.

Simpson says two male victims have ties to gangs. The victims are students or in affiliated job training programs, authorities say.

Dad of school shooter remembers son 1 year later

DENVER (AP)—The father of a student who killed a classmate at a suburban Denver high school before committing suicide posted a newspaper obituary for his son on the anniversary of the shooting, saying he forgives his son and wants him remembered as a person "who lost his way for a moment." The Saturday obit came the same day a candlelight vigil was held for 17-year-old Claire Davis, the girl slain in the attack. Mark Pierson told The Associated Press that he didn't mean to disrespect the Davis family but wanted his son, Karl, to also be remembered for the good things he did in life. He said he did not post an obit immediately after last year's shooting because he felt it was not the appropriate time.

California cleans up as storm hits Southwest

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—Californians cleaned up Saturday from a major storm that soaked the drought-stricken state before moving east to drop rain on the Southwest.

Perhaps the biggest job was in Camarillo, about 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles, where a Friday mudslide besieged houses, making 13 uninhabitable. The debris flowed down a hillside burned by wildfire last year.

"It's quite an earth-moving operation," said Elton Gallegly, whose wife's family owns one of the damaged homes and who stopped by Saturday to check on progress.

Gallegly, a former congressman, said work crews using a huge backhoe and several other vehicles told him they hoped to clear the road in front of the houses by dark. Though he was impressed by the "incredible progress," he thought that timeline was ambitious—and it still wouldn't mean the removal of tons of muck surrounding the homes.

Cleanup also was underway in South Los Angeles, where a small—and rare—tornado briefly touched down, ripping parts off several roofs and knocking down trees.

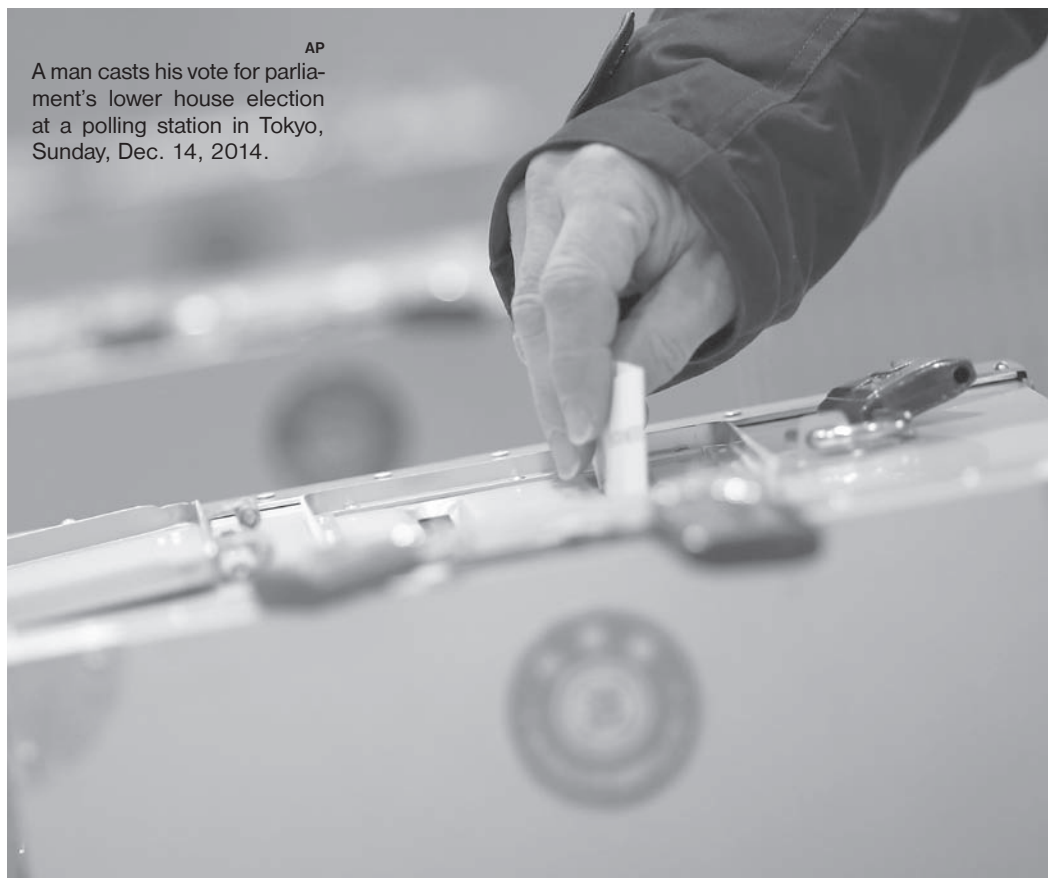
The cleanup came as more rain was forecast for coming days, though the National Weather Service said that precipitation shouldn't cause the same amount of damage as the recent storm. All of which would be good news in a state where three years of drought means every inch of rain helps.

Weather experts say many more storms are needed to pull the state out of its current water crisis.

On Saturday, utility crews restored power to nearly everyone who lost it, though roads including a stretch of the Pacific Coast Highway in Ventura County remained closed.

Asia

Japan holds vote expected to back Abe's policies



AP
A man casts his vote for parliament's lower house election at a polling station in Tokyo, Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014.

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese voters headed to the polls Sunday in a parliamentary election that is expected to reaffirm the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's majority, though many analysts were predicting a record low turnout.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called Sunday's snap election for the lower house, saying he wanted a fresh mandate for his economic program and other policies. Abe said he will step down if the Liberal Democrats fail to obtain an outright majority, but weakness among opposition parties makes that unlikely.

Abe took office two years ago promising to revive the stagnant economy and restore Japan's fading stature. Since then, share prices have risen and many companies have reported record profits as the Japanese yen has weakened in value, thanks to aggressive monetary easing.

But the economic recovery that began before Abe took office has faltered in recent months, with the country returning to recession after a sales tax hike chilled demand among consumers and businesses.

A landslide victory in this election could improve Abe's chances of pushing ahead with ambitious political and economic reforms, with or without the Liberal Democrats' coalition partner, the Buddhist-backed Komei Party.

"This is the only way!" is the slogan Abe has driven home in his campaign speeches, and for voters this is likely to be true.

Despite sliding popularity ratings, the recession and messy campaign finance scandals, Abe is virtually the only game in town thanks to Japan's tendency toward a one-party political system, voter apathy and a lack of viable alternatives.

Polls show that many voters, fed up with or indifferent to the choices on offer, support no party in particular, so Abe's Liberal Democratic Party may win by default.

The main opposition Democratic Party of Japan was in power for three years from 2009 to 2012, but lost voters' confidence amid perceptions of ineptitude after failing to deliver on campaign pledges and struggling to guide the country after the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters.

Heavy snow in northern Japan—the top news Sunday morning—could also adversely affect turnout. In Tokyo, with temperatures near freezing, few voters were seen at several polling stations.

Abe, making a final campaign appearance among dozens over the past two weeks, accused the Democratic Party of being too pessimistic about the country's future, due to an aging and shrinking population that has slowed the economy.

"If we create a country where everyone is given a chance, Japan will grow much bigger," Abe said. "We are finished if we give up."

The head of the Democratic Party, Banri Kaeda, urged people to go to the polls, saying that "Not voting will not help, either."

"When you go to vote, please think about whether you want to support the idea of having Mr. Abe rule for the next four years," he said.

A strong win for Abe's ruling coalition could empower Abe to pursuing ambitious economic reforms that have so far made scant progress, despite an aggressive monetary easing that has driven the value of the Japanese yen lower and pushed prices somewhat higher.

Such a victory would also facilitate his efforts to revise the constitution and pursue other nationalist policies. Abe's longstanding efforts toward those goals, which include the successful passage of a state secrets act and efforts to expand the scope of Japan's military activities have already roiled relations with China.

20 dead, 88 missing in central Indonesia mudslide

BANJARNEGARA, Indonesia (AP)—Heavy rains in central Indonesia loosened soil and collapsed a hill, setting off a landslide that killed at least 20 villagers and left 88 others missing under piles of mud, officials said Sunday.

Residents of Jemblung village in Central Java province's Banjarnegara district said they heard a roaring sound followed by the rain of red soil that buried more than 100 houses late Friday.

"The landslide looked like it was spinning down. I managed to rescue a pregnant woman, but could not save the other man," said Subroto, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

He said one side of the hill collapsed and then another. "In five minutes, there were three (major landslides) and they swept away everything," he said.

By Sunday, 20 bodies have been pulled from the mud and the wreckage of crumpled homes while hopes faded that 88 people still missing will be find alive, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, the spokesman for Indonesia's Disaster Mitigation Agency.

President Joko Widodo was traveling to Banjarnegara, about 460 kilometers (285 miles) east of the capital, Jakarta, on Sunday to meet with survivors and about 570 residents who were evacuated to temporary shelters. Eleven injured villagers were hospitalized.

Nugroho, a spokesman for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, said Saturday that some rescuers heard what sounded like calls for help coming from the debris, but they didn't have equipment to dig. "Mud, rugged terrain and bad weather hampered our rescue efforts," Nugroho said.

Tractors and bulldozers were later brought in.

"It was like a nightmare. ... We suddenly heard a terrible roar and we were immediately fleeing from the rain of red soil," said Wahono, a resident who survived with four family members. "Many failed and they were buried in the ground."

Wahono, who also uses only one name, said he heard people screaming and pleading for help in the heavy rain and darkness. But he said he was unable to do anything other than run with his family to safety.

The landslide was the second in several days on densely populated Java island. Mud and rocks hit Central Java's Wonosobo district on Thursday, killing at least one villager.

Seasonal rains and high tides in recent days have caused dozens of landslides and widespread flooding across much of Indonesia, a chain of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood-prone plains close to rivers.

Hong Kong to shut down last, smallest protest site

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong police said Saturday that they would clear out the third and final pro-democracy protest camp next week, putting an end to demonstrations that have blocked traffic in the southern Chinese city's streets for 2 1/2 months.

Police spokesman Steve Hui said authorities were giving the handful of protesters still occupying a short stretch of road in Causeway Bay enough time to pack up their belongings before they move in Monday.

This past week, authorities shut down the protesters' main camp near the heart of the city's financial district and arrested 249 people who refused to leave for unlawful assembly.

The student-led protesters rejected Beijing's plan to screen all candidates in the first-ever elections for Hong Kong's top leader, but failed to win significant concessions from the government.

However, many say the protest movement sparked a wider political awakening among the city's residents, especially the young. Protest leaders vowed to keep up their campaign of civil disobedience through other methods to continue pressuring the government for genuine democracy.

Hui said police would start clearing barricades on Monday morning from about 100 meters (yards) of Yee Wo Street that protesters have occupied in the Causeway Bay shopping district for 77 days.

"I now urge the illegal road occupiers to remove obstacles, take away personal belongings and leave the area in a peaceful and orderly manner soonest," Hui said. "If the illegal road occupiers refuse to leave, police will take action to disperse them."

Protesters at the camp had been resigned to eventually being removed after the main site was shut down in an orderly and peaceful operation on Thursday and had already begun packing up their things.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thailand princess relinquishes her royal title

BANGKOK (AP)—The wife of Thailand's crown prince has relinquished her royal title, culminating a downfall that means she is no longer in line to become the Southeast Asian country's next queen. While the reason for Princess Srirasm's decision wasn't clear, it follows revelations last month that several members of her family were detained in a high-profile corruption scandal. A brief statement from the palace's Royal Gazette that was made public late Friday said Srirasm, the third wife of Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, had asked permission to give up her royal status. The statement gave no reason for the move, but said 87-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej had approved the request. Thailand's strict lese majeste laws, which carry a penalty of up to 15 years in prison for anyone accused of defaming the monarchy, essentially prevent local and international media based in the country from reporting freely on the subject.

3 kindergartners die in building collapse in China

BEIJING (AP)—Three children in a kindergarten in a northern Chinese town were killed when a classroom building collapsed, state media said. The children died Saturday after they were rushed to a hospital with severe injuries, the official Xinhua News Agency said. A man who answered the phone at the local county government of Yongqing in Hebei province on Sunday confirmed the three deaths but declined to give more details or his name. The state broadcaster China Central Television said one other child was injured at the private kindergarten and that police held in custody the person in charge of the facility while investigating the cause of the collapse. Building standards for schoolhouses are lax in China. On Monday, five middle school students in eastern China were killed after a wall along an outdoor basketball court suddenly fell on them.

US man illegally in NKorea says not detained

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea on Sunday presented to the media an American who says he illegally crossed into the country but has not been put into custody and is seeking asylum in Venezuela. Arturo Pierre Martinez, 29, of El Paso, Texas, said he entered North Korea by crossing the river border with China. Details of how and when he got into the country were not immediately clear. In his comments to reporters, Martinez strongly criticized the U.S. for alleged human rights violations. He made the statement at the People's Palace of Culture, which North Korean authorities have used in recent years for press conferences where they present North Korean defectors who have returned to North Korea, or on at least one occasion, a South Korean citizen who was detained in North Korea. It is also used for signing ceremonies between North Korea and other countries.

World

Deal reached at UN climate talks in Peru

AP

Activists perform as heads of state, from left, President Barack Obama, Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper, China's President Xi Jinping, India's Narendra Modi, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during the Climate Change Conference COP20 in Lima Peru, Friday, Dec. 12, 2014. The boat's sign reads in Spanish "Leave behind emissions. Climatic agreement." Delegates from more than 190 countries are meeting in Lima to work on drafts for a global climate deal that is supposed to be adopted next year in Paris.

LIMA, Peru (AP)—After late-night wrangling at UN talks in Peru, negotiators early Sunday reached a watered-down deal that sets the stage for a global climate pact in Paris next year.

The Lima agreement was adopted hours after a previous draft was rejected by developing countries who accused rich nations of shirking their responsibilities to fight global warming and pay for its impacts.

Peru's environment minister presented a new, fourth draft just before midnight and said he hoped it would satisfy all parties, giving a sharply reduced body of remaining delegates an hour to review it.

"As a text it's not perfect, but it includes the positions of the parties," said the minister, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, who was the conference chair and had spent all afternoon and evening meeting separately with delegations.

The main goal for the two-week session in Lima was relatively modest: Reach agreement on what information should go into the pledges that countries submit for a global climate pact expected to be adopted next year in Paris.

But even that became complicated as several developing nations rebelled against a draft decision they said blurred the distinction between what rich and poor countries can be expected to do.

The final draft apparently alleviated those concerns with language saying countries have "common but differentiated responsibilities" to deal with global warming.

It also restored language demanded by small island states at risk of being flooded by rising seas, mentioning a "loss and damage" mechanism agreed upon in last year's talks in Poland.

"We need a permanent arrangement to help the poorest of the world," Ian Fry, negotiator for the Pacific Island nation of Tuvalu, said at a midday session.

However, it weakened language on the content of the pledges, saying they "may" instead of "shall" include quantifiable information showing how countries intend to meet their emissions targets.

Also, top carbon polluter China and other major developing countries opposed plans for a review process that would allow the pledges to be compared against one another before Paris.

The new draft mentioned only that all pledges would be reviewed a month ahead Paris to assess their combined effect on climate change.

Though negotiating tactics always play a role, virtually all disputes in the U.N. talks reflect a wider issue of how to divide the burden of fixing the planetary warming that scientists say results from human activity, primarily the burning of oil, coal and natural gas.

The momentum from last month's joint U.S.-China deal on emissions targets faded quickly in Lima as rifts reopened over who should do what to fight the problem.

Historically, Western nations are the biggest emitters. Currently, most CO2 emissions are coming from developing countries as they grow their economies and lift millions of people out of poverty.

During a brief stop in Lima on Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said fixing the problem was "everyone's responsibility, because it's the net amount of carbon that matters, not each country's share."

UN still struggling to move aid into Syria

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.N.'s decision in July to begin moving aid into war-torn Syria without the consent of President Bashar Assad was heralded as unprecedented. It was the first time that humanitarian need trumped a nation's sovereignty.

Five months later, aid workers are dismayed that more trucks loaded with U.N. aid aren't moving into Syria, where civilians are dodging bullets and barrel bombs in the crossfire of a war that has killed 200,000. Despite their disappointment, they still want the U.N. Security Council next week to renew a resolution that permits the U.N. aid to move through four border crossings—two in Turkey, one in Jordan and one in Iraq—without Assad's blessing.

The U.N. humanitarian office has said that if security allowed, U.N. aid trucked through the four crossings could reach 2.9 million people, complementing the much higher levels of cross-border aid that non-governmental organizations have been moving into the country for years. So far, the number of people who have benefited from aid delivered under terms of the resolution is in the hundreds of thousands, not millions.

"While some progress has been made, over 12 million people still urgently need help," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon wrote late last month. "Nearly 5 million of them live in areas that remain hard to reach despite the additional access granted through Resolution 2165, and only a portion are receiving humanitarian assistance."

He said the resolution had enabled U.N. agencies and partners to reach more places where assistance is urgently needed. But "needs continue to rise and the situation on the ground continues to deteriorate."

Before the resolution was adopted, the U.N. and its partners were getting aid to 38 hard-to-reach areas a month. Since its adoption, an average of 66 of these areas are reached each month.

Resolution 2165, which was approved for six months, is set to expire on Jan. 9. U.N. diplomats say they hope to vote on renewing it for a full year next week.

A half dozen aid officials and workers told The Associated Press in interviews that the cross-border U.N. aid has been slowly increasing. They say it is hampered by fighting, militant roadblocks, bureaucratic and logistical delays, poor coordination and—in some cases—the aid community's fear of angering the Syrian government because it needs its help with other projects in the country.

The aid workers all spoke on condition of anonymity because they said speaking publicly would make them targets for extremist militants and potentially damage their working relationships with the U.N.

One aid official, who coordinates work in several countries in the region, said that since the resolution was adopted, the U.N. had moved about 420 truckloads of aid through border crossings in Turkey and Jordan compared to the 688 truckloads of aid his organization had moved in the same time period through Turkey alone.

Haiti awaits PM speech amid political discontent

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe kept Haiti in suspense early Sunday as he delayed a speech on a possible resignation in the wake of violent anti-government protests and a commission's call for him to step down.

Lamothe announced via Twitter on Saturday he would deliver a speech later in the day, but midnight passed without a statement.

Damian Merlo, an adviser for Lamothe, tweeted shortly before midnight that the prime minister was rehearsing his speech.

"It's an important one and needs to be precise—please hang tight," he wrote.

President Michel Martelly said earlier he accepted the findings of the commission that had recommended Lamothe's replacement, though he did not explicitly say the prime minister would resign.

Martelly appointed Lamothe as prime minister in 2012, and some political analysts believe Lamothe might seek the presidency in upcoming elections.

Haiti's capital has endured a growing number of violent demonstrations demanding long-delayed elections and the resignations of Lamothe as well as Martelly.

On Saturday, one man was found dead in a protest in Port-Au-Prince during clashes with police who were firing tear gas. It was not immediately clear how the man died, although he was shot at least once in the wrist. Demonstrations also spread to other towns, including Gonaives and Cap-Haitien.

The unrest followed a demonstration Friday in which U.N. peacekeeping troops opened fire on a crowd that marched through Port-au-Prince, set tires on fire and skirmished with troops and police.

Martelly has been under pressure to call elections, which have been expected since 2011. His administration blames the delay on six opposition senators who contend legislation that would authorize the vote unfairly favors the government.

The commission set up to break the impasse recommended that Lamothe resign, along

Jamaica truth commission explores bloody slum raid

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Adina Derby raised her voice in anger and grief as she recalled the morning when masked soldiers and police raided her West Kingston neighborhood, using mortar rounds to blast through street barricades of junked cars and piles of wood.

"They come with blood in their eyes to kill off everybody!" Derby exclaimed, describing how she was shot in the back while trying vainly to save her wounded 20-year-old son by pushing him on a handcart to a nearby hospital.

Joan McCarthy recounted seeing policemen grab her nephew and son-in-law during a door-to-door search and hustle them out of sight. She said the officers dragged away their bodies minutes later wrapped loosely in a sheet taken from her own bed.

One after another, survivors from the warren-like Tivoli Gardens slum are telling a truth commission what they experienced during one of the bloodiest incidents in Jamaica's recent history, the 2010 raid to capture a gang kingpin who ran a criminal fiefdom that seemed untouchable until Jamaica reluctantly agreed to act on a U.S. extradition warrant.

The commission, which began hearing testimony this month from slum residents was appointed by the government largely in response to widespread complaints that authorities summarily executed people and trampled civil rights in the hunt for Christopher "Dudus" Coke, the second-generation leader of the feared Shower Posse gang. Police and military officials are expected to testify after the Christmas holidays.

The panel of two retired judges and a university professor is supposed to present a report and recommendations to the island's governor general. It's not yet clear whether any judicial proceedings will follow the testimony, which is expected to be completed within three months.

Focus

AP

In this March 8, 2011 file photo, Manoubiyeh Bouazizi, the mother of Mohamed Bouazizi, the local fruit vendor who set himself on fire Dec. 17, holds a picture of him, in the town of Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia, Tuesday March 8, 2011.

Four years on, something of an

ARAB WINTER

By DAN PERRY
Associated Press

It began with a spark, four years ago: An itinerant fruit seller, despairing of life in authoritarian Tunisia, set himself on fire and burned to death. It provoked a revolution, and the flames caught swiftly across a region that had known little but despotism since the day colonial rulers went home.

The world celebrated the "Arab Spring" as evidence that the people of the Middle East, like those everywhere, yearn to be free. But time has not been kind to the optimists.

After some hiccups, Tunisia is the one bright light today, with a free presidential election planned later this month. But across the Middle East, bloodshed, chaos and dashed dreams were far more often the result.

Hundreds of thousands have died, most in a ferocious and seemingly unwinnable Syrian civil war that has displaced millions, spilled over into Iraq, and threatens to destabilize other neighboring countries. Libya is an ungovernable and dangerous mess. And Islamic radicals have seized the discourse to a great extent; a US-led coalition fights them now, in Syria and Iraq.

"We can expect democratic transitions to be messy, chaotic and sometimes bloody, but this is worse than even the worst expectations," said Shadi Hamid, a Mideast expert at the Brookings Institution. The biggest and most unfortunate lesson people learned, he said, is that peaceful protest does not necessarily lead to a peaceful way forward or toward democratic transition.

Increasingly, people in the region are asking whether democracy is even a good idea in the Arab world. The question seems unfit for polite society, but it was already on the table in January 2011, as a panel of Arab finance figures considered events back home from the comfort of the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, its members clearly none too pleased.

One recommended strong but "benevolent" leaders for the region. Another said democracy was alien to a region where patriarchal traditions dominate. A third said the public needs education lest it simply vote along tribal lines. Others saw radical Islamists swiftly bamboozling the masses.

Among the mostly Western audience, there was a palpable sense that these were the well-fed, predictably disinterested in sharing the pie.

Within days, a cheering world community was riveted to screens as Egypt's long-submissive people thronged to Cairo's Tahrir Square, braving bullets and refusing to leave until veteran ruler Hosni Mubarak stepped down.

The military forced him out in the end. But in the narrative of revolution, it was articulate young activists like Google executive Wael Ghonim who got the credit. They are not much to be seen these days in Egypt.

Instead of the liberals, an Islamist party won four elections. It badly misruled and was overthrown by the military and banned, its leaders now in jail and being handed death sentences en masse that are not likely to be carried out. Many hundreds have been killed in the suppression of street protests. Military chief Abdel Fattah el-Sissi was elected president almost without challenge, but domestic criticism is muted now and liberal activists sit in jail. Angry jihadis blow things up and kill what soldiers they can catch.

Bringing things nearly full circle, a court last weekend acquitted Mubarak—who has been in detention since stepping down—of corruption and dropped charges of complicity in the deaths of hundreds during the revolt. It went over quietly; the people, most of all, are yearning to be free of turmoil, and to have enough to eat. It seems likely that Mubarak, 86, will soon walk free.

Four years after the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi in Tunisia, here are some lessons to be learned:

> You can blow out a candle, but you can't blow out a fire, Once the flames begin to catch, the wind will blow it higher.
>
> —"Biko," Peter Gabriel

THE ELITES DISTRUST THE MASSES

Most of the world has seen a growth in inequality in recent decades, and the educated and wealthy keep their distance from the masses in different ways almost everywhere. But in the Arab world it has long been rather extreme, and the past three years have made it worse. The Egyptian revolution enjoyed very broad support from the largely secular elites, except for people who had economic ties to the regime. Free and fair elections were the focus, much like in Eastern Europe two decades before.

But the early elections of the Arab Spring tended to elevate political Islamists, who were the only force that effectively organized politically under the authoritarian regimes. The Muslim Brotherhood won a succession of parliamentary, presidential and constitutional votes in Egypt—to the horror of most of the elites—before the military threw its leaders into jail. By now, educated Egyptians tend to have developed more complex ideas about democracy that sound like ways to keep it at bay: The people are not quite ready, as perhaps a third are illiterate; Western ideas of extreme freedom of speech are dangerous here for now; a steady building of the institutions of a civil society must come first, even if decades are required to do it right.

The subtext: If the masses will elect Islamists, then democracy can wait.

JIHADIS ARE NO JOKE

The jihadis who want to export Islam by force through the region and the world were a threat before, but the past four years took it to a new level. Libya's conflict sent heavy weapons scattering across the Mideast and war in Syria generated a new jihadi cause. Then came the banning of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt—and the support that move received in the Gulf, except for in Qatar. The Brotherhood denies any connection to terrorism but some supporters have likely given up on the ballot box. So jihadis are at war with secular governments and moderate Muslims everywhere. It is not just the Islamic State group, imposing an extremist form of Islam in parts of Syria and Iraq; it's also the Nusra Front and other Syrian factions with radical ideologies. Jihadis terrorize much of Libya and in Egypt's Sinai are in rebellion. They fight the government and the Americans in Yemen. So brutal are these radicals—massacring opponents, enslaving women, and beheading captives—that they are widely seen as a greater threat than anything as tame as a corrupt and authoritarian military regime.

MONARCHIES SURVIVED

Every one of the countries whose leader was toppled—Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen—had been run by authoritarian civilians backed by military power. So is Syria, where war rages still. The monarchies, from Morocco to Jordan and Saudi Arabia and the neighboring United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait, were barely touched. In Bahrain Sunni rulers did have to stamp out an attempted rebellion by majority Shiites. But in the booming Emirates, life went on for a minority of privileged citizens and an army of Westerners living fantastically well for the most part. The others, Asian itinerants mostly, went on building their towers and cleaning their streets, largely unseen and rarely heard.

"You really can buy your way out of an uprising," said Ayham Kamel, director of Middle East and North Africa with the Eurasia group in London, speaking of the Gulf monarchies.

SUNNIS AND SHIITES, DYSFUNCTIONAL TOGETHER

The current map of the central part of the Middle East—the Levant—is in good part the result of colonial powers dividing up the spoils of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire after World War I. Minimal attention was given to the region's intra-Arab group animosities that have existed since the 7th century. This created states that are mixed between Sunnis, Shiites and other groups. To outsiders, Sunnis and Shiites differ little: the language, appearance, basic religion, social mores, and even most customs are the same. But history has shown that where one group dominates the others are often trampled; this is the case in Sunni Saudi Arabia. Where there is some parity a chaotic struggle for primacy has generally followed: this happened in Lebanon, whose 15-year civil war ended in 1990; it is the case in Syria and Iraq today. If Islamic State's goal was not extremist Islam but merely the creation of a Sunni zone spanning the Sunni part of Syria and Iraq, that aspect would have some support among the population.

NO PALESTINE SPRING

The Arab revolts did not spread to Palestine, but they are having a big effect. Events in Iraq and Syria make it seem not unreasonable that the Islamic State group could attack Jordan and in the future also make inroads in a Palestinian state composed almost entirely of Sunni Muslims. Palestinians tend to dismiss such fears. But Israelis listen when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu argues it would be folly, at such a time of chaos, to pull out of territory that sits on the cusp of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. So the occupation grinds on, and with it continues the Jewish settlement of the West Bank and east Jerusalem, each day bringing the sides closer to a single binational entity whose component pieces can no longer be ripped apart. That would be the end of the Jewish state—perhaps the most ironic potential outcome of the events sparked by a Tunisian street vendor on Dec. 17, 2010.

Health & Fitness

42.9 million Americans have unpaid medical bills

By JOSH BOAK
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

AP
In this Jan. 9, 2013 file photo, an injured passenger of a New Jersey ferry is loaded into an ambulance, in New York. Nearly 20 percent of U.S. consumers–42.9 million people–have unpaid medical debts, according to a new report released Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014 by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nearly 20 percent of U.S. consumers with credit records—42.9 million people—have unpaid medical debts, according to a new report by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The findings suggest that many Americans are being trapped by debt because they are confused by the notices they get from hospitals and insurance companies about the cost of treatment. As a result, millions of Americans may be surprised to find they are stuck with lower credit scores, making it harder for them to borrow to buy a home or an automobile.

"When people fall ill and end up at the hospital with unexpected bills, far too often they have entered into a financial maze," CFPB director Richard Cordray said in a speech to be delivered Thursday in Oklahoma City.

On average, a person with only overdue medical debt owes $1,766. Someone with unpaid medical bills and other sources of debt—possibly credit cards or back taxes—owes an average of $5,638. More than half of all debt on credit reports stems from medical expenses.

The report by the federal regulator indicates that much of this trouble could be avoided. About half of consumers who only carry medical debt have no other signs of being under financial distress. But complaints to the CFPB indicate that consumers are routinely baffled by medical bills. Unwieldy insurance and hospital statements leave them uncertain as to how much money they owe, the deadline for payment, and which organization should be paid.

The confusion tends to generate disputes from consumers about the unpaid debts. This has prompted the CFPB to also announce Thursday that it will require major consumer reporting agencies to provide regular reports on how they investigate and respond to disputed charges.

The unpaid medical bills have negative repercussions for credit scores, which help determine how much money people can borrow and the interest rates for mortgages and auto loans.

An unpaid bill of at least $100 could lower an otherwise sterling credit score of 780 by over 100 points, the Fair Isaac Corp. told the CFPB based on a previous model it used to calculate creditworthiness.

The firm updated its credit score model in August, putting less weight on unpaid medical bills when predicting the likelihood of repayment. Consumers with only medical expenses in collection would see their credit score increase by a median of 25 points once the new model is fully implemented.

The updated model was announced after a separate CFPB report in May on the impact medical debt had on credit scores.

The latest CFPB analysis overlaps with a separate study released in July by the Urban Institute, a Washington, DC-based think tank.

The Urban Institute study found that the share of Americans with debt in collections has remained relatively constant, despite the country as a whole whittling down the size of its credit card and other debts since the Great Recession ended in the middle of 2009. That points to a sizeable share of Americans who are not only struggling to understand medical bills but also have no choice but to take on debts they have little chance of repaying.

The Urban Institute found that 35.1 percent of people with credit records had been reported to collections for debt that averaged $5,178, based on September 2013 records.

CDC report: Ebola reports rarely panned out

NEW YORK (AP)—A new government report counts hundreds of times U.S. doctors and hospitals raised false alarms about possible Ebola cases, finding that fewer than one in five warranted even additional investigation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report—released Friday—looked at Ebola-related calls the federal agency received this year from doctors, hospitals, and state and local health departments.

In most calls, it turned out the patient had neither traveled to an Ebola-affected country nor had contact with an Ebola patient.

Of 650 patients flagged to federal officials, four ended up testing positive.

But health officials say there was a national learning curve for Ebola—even for doctors and nurses—and they had no complaint about all the nervous phone calls.

Health care workers "had a high degree of vigilance about Ebola and a low threshold for requesting public health consultation. That's exactly what we want," said Dr. Alexa Oster, a CDC epidemiologist who was the study's senior author.

The CDC report looked back at Ebola-related calls the federal health agency received this year from doctors, hospitals, and state and local health departments. It covered the period July 9 through Nov. 15, and included calls from 49 states and the District of Columbia.

Only 18 percent of the flagged patients had signs or symptoms consistent with Ebola or some risk factor that warranted further investigation, the report found.

In some cases, doctors leapt straight to Ebola as a possible diagnosis and initially did not test for malaria or other illnesses that might explain certain symptoms, the CDC found.

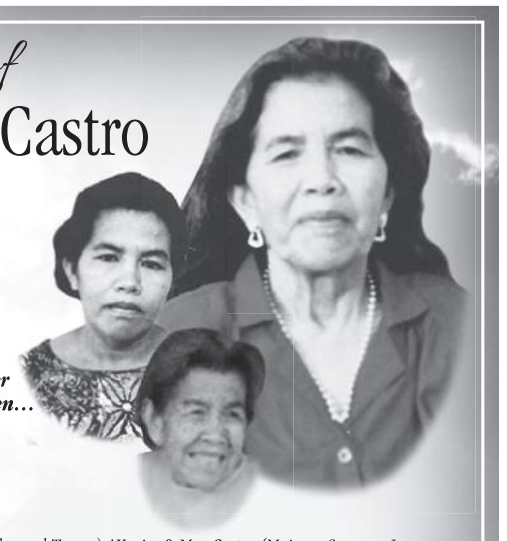
The calls peaked in October, following the first-ever diagnosis of an Ebola cases in United States—a Liberian man who grew sick after traveling to Dallas and died there. Two Dallas nurses who cared for him caught the illness. They recovered, but the appearance of the once-exotic deadly disease spurred a wave of fear.

Calls to the CDC have fallen off since, probably for a couple of reasons, Oster said: Through months of intense public interest and media coverage about Ebola, health care workers and other Americans have become more familiar with the signs, symptoms and risk factors for Ebola. Also, more and more state and local health departments have begun testing for Ebola, and the CDC is not necessarily seen as the main source for help with Ebola questions, she said.

In Loving Memory of

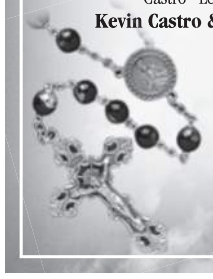
†Virginia Quichocho Castro

July 17, 1926 – December 6, 2014
88 years old



In her new life, she now joins her:
Husband: †Deacon Segundo Dela Cruz Castro
Daughters: †Magdalena Q. Castro and †Celina Q. Castro
Parents: †Jesus Siguenza and †Ignacia DLG Quichocho
In-laws: †Joaquin Villagomez and †Ana Dela Cruz Castro

Her loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her siblings, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren…
Sister: Maria Quichocho and †Pedro Cruz and Family
Brother: Ramon DLG. and †Rosa Quichocho and Family
Children:
Jesus Q. Castro
Joaquin & Lesley Castro*Isaiah Castro *Daniel Castro
(†) Margarita Atalig Castro**-*Dorsha and Luis Moreno (Jasha and Torren) *Xavier & Mae Castro (Maiana, Samaya, Lorenzo and Giovani) *Deanna & Phil Sablan (Jordan, Reece and Nathaniel) *Dionne Castro & Sechelle Feathera (Kiara) *Donna & Joe Camacho (Tori and Ava) *Christopher Castro
Gregorio & Ofelia Castro *Desiree Castro *Irish Castro *Geoff Castro
****Generosa Manglona Castro**-*Gregory & Teresa Castro (Kara) *Jenny & Craig Thomas (Kayla, Tani and Gage) *Jemmy & Alexandra Castro (Shady, Dashyll and Shaya) *Yolanda & Burt Clement (Joseph and Cali)
Anicia & Jesus R.A. Sonoda *Stephen & Lisa Stettenbenz (Malia, Kainoa, Kayla and Lauren) *Craig & Marisol Sonoda (Isa, Kaia and Makeo) *Erica & Thomas Thornburgh (Mark Sonoda) *Raymond Seiji Sonoda *Jessica "Jik" C. Sonoda
Jose & Concepcion Castro *Jocelyn & Juan (Anastasia and Shardanay) *JQ & Jennifer Castro (Lailani and Kai) *Jay & Sarah Castro (Maxiliano)
Lillian Q. Castro & Bruce Blanton Sr. *Nikkonia Blanton-Mendiola & Rufino Mendiola Jr. (Quipuha and Aiko) *Bruce Jr. & Reena P. Blanton
Magdalena & Raymond Taitano *Leona & Matt Taia Sr. (Matthew Taia Jr, Maalima, Nyla and Leiana) *Louise Lopez (Isaiah and Noah) *Veronica Bisarra *Barbara Bisarra *Keana Taitano
Rosalyn & Jesse Quintanilla *Mikkel & Katie Castro (Ian, Zion, Dartanan and Kiannen) *Malyssa Q. Castro (Elialyn, Ziggy and Zayne) *Joshua Q. Castro
Alfredo & Margaret Castro *Kimberlyn & Ryan Sr. Fowler (Victoria, Liyah and Ryan Jr.) *Virginia-Ann Castro & Noel Santos (Keolani, Mary and Noel Jr.) *Alfred Jr & Trish (Thomas, Tyler, Aiden Jay, Ketoryah and Kayleah) *Flavian and Shanalyn Castro (Vicente and Richard) *Abraham & Joelene Castro (Aria)
Segundo & Celina T. Castro *Steven Castro*Segundo Castro *Virginia P. Castro (Destiny and Candy) *Tia Maria & Joaquin Dela Cruz (Melvin, Joaquin, Tomi and Akina) *Faith Castro *Xang Castro *Mailee Castro *Mayline Castro
Celina & Richard Farrell Sr. *Tiona & Rian Jones *Anthony Randall *Richeena Farrell & John Ramos *Rikkie Farrell & Renebhoy Benghit *Richard Farrell Jr.
Lee & Cherry R. Castro *Christine Leigh & Danny Concepcion (Kyra, Khamia and Kevaeha) *RJ C. Castro *Paula Chelee R. Castro *Lee Vicente R. Castro *Lee R. Castro Jr. *Yvette Leeanne R. Castro
Kevin Castro & Takakazu "Kaz" Saishu



Nightly rosaries are being offered at the San Jose Church in Tinian at 8pm until December 14th and on December 15th Mass will be held at San Jose Church at 6pm.
On Tuesday, December 16, 2014, her remains will be escorted to San Jose Church. Final viewing and last respects will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by interment.

Your thoughts, prayers, and presence are greatly appreciated.

The Family

Life & Style

Can stand-up provide refuge for Bill Cosby?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For five decades, Bill Cosby maintained a busy stand-up career even as his TV visibility rose and fell and new generations of comedians took center stage.

But the renewal of sexual assault claims that have soured TV and other comeback deals for Cosby are undermining the live performances that represent his direct avenue to fans and a semblance of business as usual.

The 77-year-old comedian's ambitious tour schedule that has him crisscrossing the U.S. and into Canada this winter and spring has been whittled by cancellations and indefinite postponements of about 10 concerts in as many states.

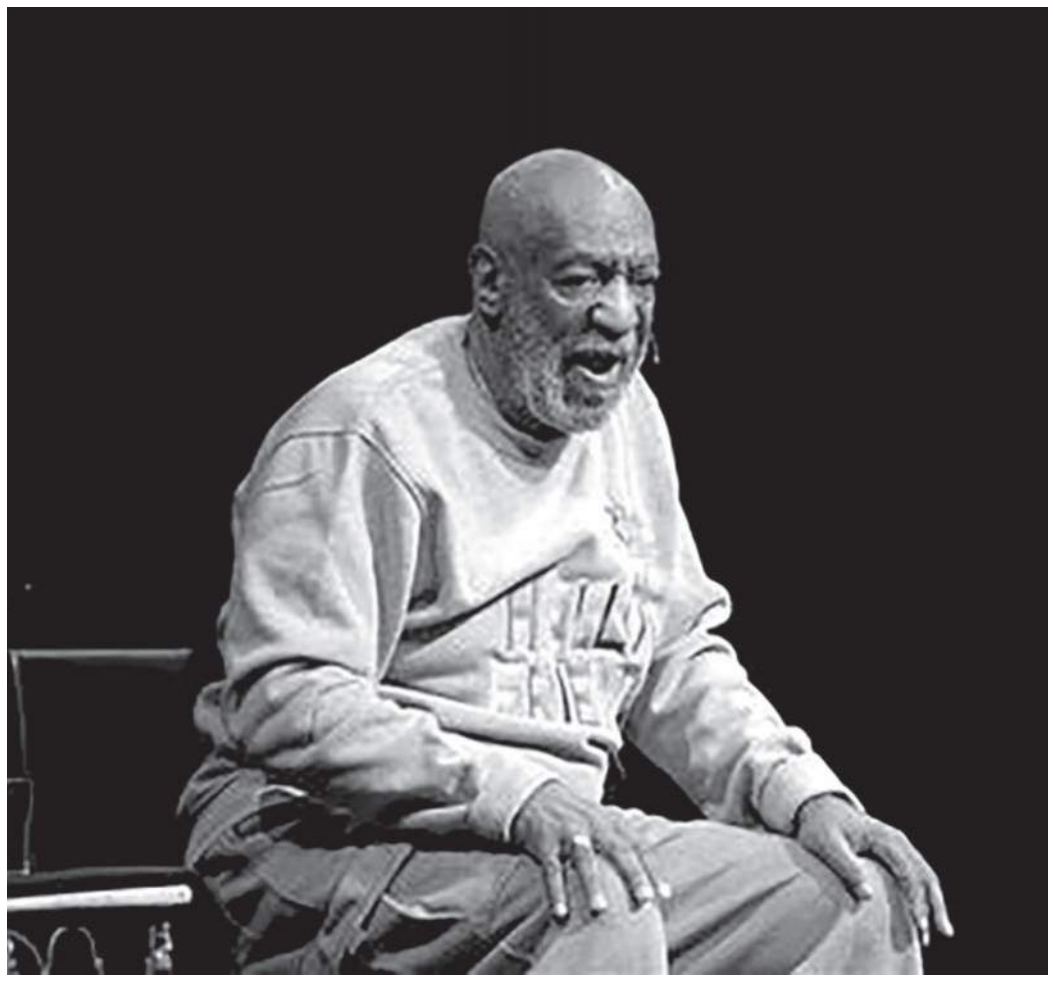
"The venues are getting cold feet. Everyone is worried about protesters," said Gary Bongiovanni, editor of Pollstar, a concert industry trade publication. "If I was advising him, I would tell him to cancel everything and lie low for a while."

Jamie Masada, owner of the famed Laugh Factory clubs, suggested the same.

Until there is some resolution of the accusations against Cosby, ideally in court, Masada said, he's taking a risk with each performance.

"A stand-up concert is a free forum for audiences to scream whatever they want," he said. Given that, Masada added, "Would he want to do a concert?"

He recalled that during Cosby's Laugh Factory visits he was "so charming, teasing every audience, talking to them."



AP

In this Nov. 21, 2014 file photo, comedian Bill Cosby performs during a show at the Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts in Melbourne, Fla.

Waiting out the controversy could test Cosby, given two civil lawsuits filed against him this month. As long the suits—one claiming molestation, another defamation—are pending they will remain a red flag for media and other attention.

And although statutes of limitations make criminal charges appear unlikely, more than 15 women have emerged to air or revive accusations that include claims of drugging and sexual abuse.

Supermodel Beverly Johnson, in a first-person online piece for Vanity Fair titled, "Bill Cosby Drugged Me," became the latest to speak out, her allegations stemming from what she said was a mid-1980s encounter after he invited her to audition for "The Cosby Show." She said she managed to get him to back off.

Martin Singer, an attorney representing Cosby, did not return requests for comment.

Cosby has never been charged with a crime, and his lawyers have denied many of the allegations.

Amid the controversy, Cosby's last concert, on Nov. 21 in Melbourne, Florida, showed how powerful the mix of star power and fan ardor can be. Ignoring a sea of negative headlines and accusations outside, the adoring audience inside laughed heartily at Cosby's routine and gave him two standing ovations. Only a lone protester stood outside the concert.

Although some subsequent concerts got requests for refunds, clearly not all who came to admire Cosby as a family friendly performer and an African-American TV groundbreaker (with "The Cosby Show" and "I Spy") are ready to reject him.

That's to be expected, said Allen P. Adamson, chairman, managing director of the New York office of brand consultant Landor Associates. While corporations beat a hasty, financially protective retreat at any hint of trouble involving a celebrity, people respond differently.

"Consumers are much slower to reject and very often make their own choices," Adamson said. "Individuals, especially die-hard fans, wait for the dust to settle. And even when it does, they might not mind."

On the business front, Cosby's scheduled Netflix concert special was canceled, and NBC scrapped development on a new sitcom with him.

For now, that leaves stand-up. The comedian's website, topped by jaunty photos of him both young and old and mugging for the camera, lists 22 dates stretching into May, although three are among the canceled or postponed shows. Tickets for the still-planned 19 remained on sale through Ticketmaster or the venues as of Friday, with prices topping off at around $100.

Cosby's next planned appearances are in Canada, with three dates set for January.

Scott Warren, general manager of Hamilton Place Theatre in Hamilton, Ontario, where Cosby is scheduled to perform Jan. 9, has said the theater is bound by a contract with the promoter and would risk being sued if the show were canceled.

There was a call to boycott Cosby's Jan. 8 show in London, Ontario, issued by Megan Walker, executive director of the London Abused Women's Centre.

In light of such pushback and the ongoing accusations, what can a celebrity in Cosby's position do to redeem his or her image and reputation?

"Unfortunately, not much, other than get out of limelight," Adamson said. "Usually time can heal some of this, and five years from now he might be able to relaunch himself."

For the veteran actor and comedian, however, the answer may be to "get out of the public light and live a quiet, more secluded life rather than try to get one last curtain call," he said.

Can Amy Pascal's career survive Sony cyberattack?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Amy Pascal, one of the most powerful women in the man's world that is Hollywood and the force behind such critical and commercial hits as "The Social Network" and "American Hustle," has had better days.

The co-chairman of the studio and chief of its film division is under fire for racist remarks about President Obama's presumed choice in movies that surfaced in emails made public by the Sony cyberattack.

Pascal also faces criticism for green-lighting the film that may have inspired the hacking to begin with: "The Interview," which stars Seth Rogen and James Franco as bumbling journalists tasked with killing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korea has denied responsibility for the attack, but praised it as a "righteous deed." Earlier this year, the country's foreign ministry said the film's release would be an "act of war" and promised "merciless" retaliation.

"The Interview" is not the first film to target political leaders, or even North Korea. "Team America: World Police" famously took aim at Kim's father, Kim Jong Il. This also isn't the first time a powerful executive has been dogged by private comments made public. But can Pascal's career survive such a double whammy?

The 56-year-old thinks so.

"I'd be surprised if my entire legacy was based on the leak of the email exchange," Pascal told industry website The Wrap on Thursday. Virtually unknown outside of Hollywood, her nearly 20-year tenure at Sony and Columbia Pictures has included some very well-known films, such as "Skyfall," "Superbad," "Salt," "Fury" and "The Equalizer." Pascal was fourth on The Hollywood Reporter's annual ranking released this week of the most powerful women in entertainment.

She apologized Thursday for the "insensitive and inappropriate" comments in her emails that she says are "not an accurate reflection of who I am." Oscar-winning producer Scott Rudin, who participated in the racist exchange, apologized as well. Rudin, incidentally, was a producer of "Team America."

AP

In this Oct. 4, 2013 file photo, Amy Pascal, Sony Pictures Entertainment co-chairman, arrives at Variety's 5th Annual Power of Women event at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel on Friday, Oct. 4, 2013, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Pascal's decision to bring "The Interview" to theaters isn't as problematic as the unflattering image created by her own private emails, said branding expert Dorie Clark.

"She's on solid ground rhetorically when she talks about the fact that Sony Pictures Entertainment is never going to back down from releasing a film because of the threat of what hackers might do," Clark said.

Rogen thanked Pascal for having the courage to make the film at its premiere Thursday, where Sony took the unusual step of denying press interviews.

Clark said Pascal's professional network will determine the continued viability of her career.

"What's going to decide her future is how close she is with her boss and what kind of relationship she has with the board. This scandal is survivable," she said. "It depends on how many people there are in Hollywood who want to put a knife in her back."

Clark said the studio's financial success under Pascal is likely to play into her fate, noting the company's revenues are up 13 percent over the past fiscal year. The studio underwent a multi-million-dollar cost-cutting campaign the previous year after a few flops, including the Jamie Foxx-Channing Tatum action flick, "White House Down."

Crisis-management specialist Michael Levine said corporate leaders are far more forgiving of those who are generating profits, especially since Pascal followed the "four golden rules of redemption" after the email leak: Contrition, humility, taking responsibility and responding quickly.

"If one is successful for an organization, they're given every benefit of the doubt," he said.

Pascal and Sony did not respond to requests for comment Friday.

The massive Sony hack not only revealed private emails sent by top executives, it also made thousands of employee Social Security numbers public and leaked five new Sony films, including "Annie," which opens next week.

The juiciest aspect, though, has been the emails, which offer an uncensored peek behind the curtain at how Hollywood does business. In one of the messages, Rudin called Angelina Jolie a "minimally talented spoiled brat." Pascal and Jolie crossed paths this week at an industry breakfast event, but no fireworks flew.

Ironically, the flap over the hack attack could boost box office returns for "The Interview," which opens on Christmas.

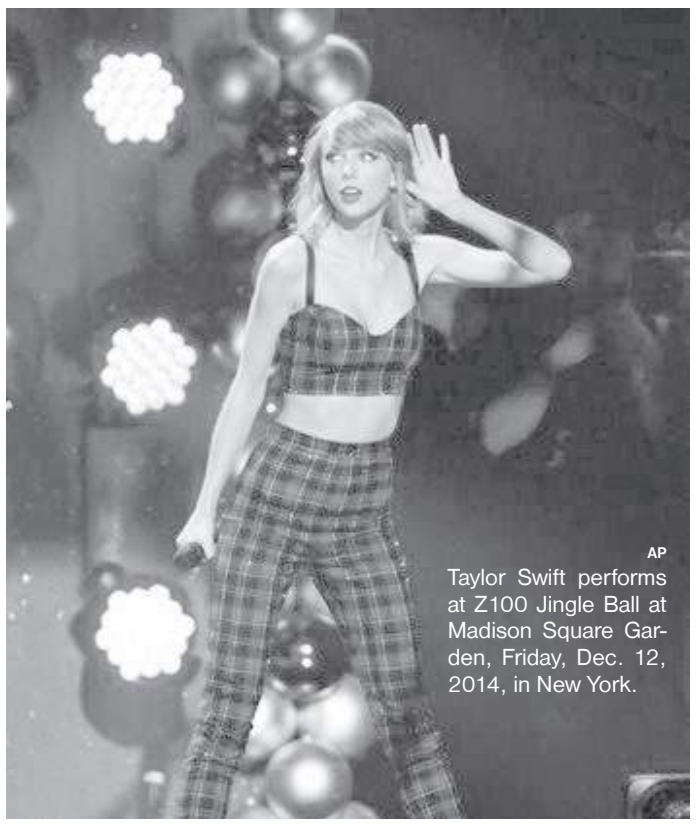
"The circumstances are nothing anyone would covet or want in their marketing plan... But now that it's happened, it may end up helping the movie," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "It's raised the awareness of the film to an incredible level that it otherwise might not have enjoyed were it not for this situation."

Sam Smith, Taylor Swift own the night at Jingle Ball

NEW YORK (AP)—If you wanted to make a time capsule of what happened in pop music this year, Friday night's Jingle Ball—the annual extravaganza held in Madison Square Garden put on by pop station Z100—would most likely provide the most accurate account.

There was Pharrell—with the hat- crooning his hit "Happy"; Iggy Azalea rapping and posturing as she breezed through "Fancy"; Jessie J and Ariana Grande playfully one-upping each other in the power-vocal showcase smash "Bang Bang"; and Meghan Trainor serving sass on what was arguably the song of the year, "All About That Bass."

But the king and queen of the night (and perhaps the year) were Sam Smith and Taylor Swift. Their separate performances couldn't have been less alike: Smith was all about stately R&B while Swift brought her perky pop. But they were the emotional highlights, capturing the hearts of fans who expressed their approval with ear-piercing shrieks and screams.



AP

Taylor Swift performs at Z100 Jingle Ball at Madison Square Garden, Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, in New York.

"I am the only person who asks you to scream loudly tonight who is about to turn 25 in 10 minutes," Swift told the crowd shortly before she celebrated her birthday after the stroke of midnight.

Smith, the newcomer who last week was nominated for six Grammys including record, song and album of the year, was the most unlikely pop star of the bunch; he sings traditional, downtempo soul songs and doesn't dance; his signature look is a drab suit and his wide, doleful eyes.

But his searing, soulful voice has made him among the most acclaimed artists of the year, and fans at Jingle Ball, who range all ages but skew heavily toward the tween and teen set, were captivated by it as he powered through songs like "I'm Not the Only One," "Latch" and his signature hit, the Grammy-nominated "Stay With Me."

Swift—the evening's final performer—was the clear fan favorite. The former country princess opened her newly exclusive pop set with her love letter to her new hometown, "Welcome to New York," then segued to her self-mocking "Blank Space." She shined, engaging the audience with an energetic set that showed her charm as a performer—dancing and grooving with her band through songs like "Shake it Off" as she playfully yet forcefully warbled the grooves.

Other acts got love too. Grande—wearing a saucy white outfit that looked like a leftover from her recent Victoria's Secret gig—was reminiscent of a young Christina Aguilera as she ran through the hits that made her one of the year's top acts, including "Problem;" while that song features Iggy Izalea, the Australian rapper didn't join in for that one, preferring to stick to her own set, which featured collaborations with Charli XCX and Rita Ora.

One Republic won the crowd early with songs like "Apologize." Dreamy teen boy acts like 5 Seconds of Summer and newcomers Shawn Mendes and Rixton whipped the crowd into a frenzy, and even Nick Jonas—whom with his brothers nearly ruptured eardrums just a few years ago—had the crowd on its feet as he performed his comeback single "Jealous."

Other performers included Gwen Stefani (who performed with Pharrell), Maroon 5 and Calvin Harris.

Chicken pox keeps Jolie from `Unbroken' promotions

AP

In this Nov. 27, 2014 file photo, director Angelina Jolie poses for photographers during a photo call for her film "Unbroken" in Berlin, Germany.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angelina Jolie is reluctantly calling in sick for "Unbroken" promotional duty.

Universal Pictures said Friday that Jolie is suffering from "a mild bout of chicken pox" that will keep her from making public appearances in the coming days to support the film, which she directed. "Unbroken," about former Olympian Louis Zamperini, is set to premiere in Los Angeles on Monday.

Universal said Jolie's children and her husband, Brad Pitt, will represent her at the premiere. The studio added that she's "in very good spirits" regardless. The actress, appearing pale and drawn, also explained her plight in a YouTube post.

"I will be home itching and missing everyone," she says in the video. "I can't believe it, because this film means so much to me... But such is life. There it is."

Jolie's illness comes days after she was maligned by top Hollywood executives in private emails made public by the Sony cyberattack and her film was ignored by the Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe awards.

Aretha serenades Swift as Billboard honors both

NEW YORK (AP)—It'll be hard for Taylor Swift top this as a birthday gift: A birthday serenade from none other than the Queen of Soul.

Aretha Franklin arguably had the best performance of the afternoon as the legend gave an impromptu performance of "Happy Birthday" to Taylor Swift, Billboard's new "Woman of the Year," at their annual Women in Music event on Friday. Swift swooned as Franklin sang and the pair embraced afterward and she was given a birthday cake.

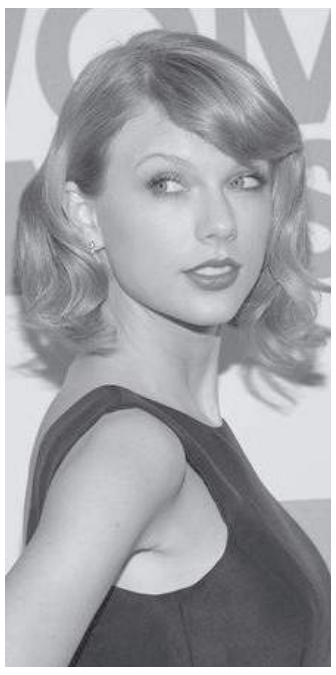
Technically Swift doesn't turn 25 until Saturday but she was able to celebrate early with the honor; she was one of several women celebrated at the event, which featured some of the biggest names in music, including a surprise appearance by Beyonce.

Billboard's Women in Music awards honors the top women in the industry, from executives to artists like Franklin, who received the appropriately named "Icon" award.

Swift was named the top woman in music after her record-breaking year, in which her "1989" album debuted at No. 1 and sold more than 1 million copies—her third straight album to accomplish such a feat, setting a record. She also had chart-toppers with "Shake It Off" and "Blank Space" and recently saw the former song get nominated for record of the year at the Grammys.

Swift used her acceptance speech to underscore her decision this fall to remove all her music from the streaming site Spotify on the grounds that it doesn't equitably reimburse artists for the use of its material.

" I really believe we in the music industry can work together to find a way to bond technology with integrity and just really hope we can teach the younger generation the value of investment in music rather than the ephemeral consumption of it," Swift said.



AP

Taylor Swift attends the 2014 Billboard Women in Music luncheon at Cipriani Wall Street on Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, in New York.

Germany's most successful TV show comes to an end

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's most successful TV show is ending after a 33-year-run.

"Wetten, dass..?"—or "Wanna bet?"—combined celebrity chat and everyday people performing improbable feats, from opening beer bottles with steamrollers to identifying animal dung by its smell.

Seen roughly six times a year and always on a Saturday night, the show aired more than 200 times, and attracted over 20 million viewers in the 1980s.

But audiences grew tired of the formula, and viewership dropped as criticism grew.

Foreign guests expressed bewilderment at the antics of the contestants and host, and a horrific on-air accident in 2010 that left a man paralyzed helped hasten its demise.

Public broadcaster ZDF says guests on Saturday's final show will include American actor Ben Stiller and former figure skating champion Katarina Witt.

Marriage idea loses its luster after plans were put on hold

DEAR ABBY: Recently, our state became one that allows same-sex couples to wed. My partner, "Alex," and I have been together for 18 years. We had planned to be married last spring, but a death in the family put our wedding on hold.

When I found out about the ruling, I expected Alex to be excited and suggest we go ahead and marry. To my disappointment, he didn't seem to care. He hasn't mentioned marriage once, and when I bring it up, he's quiet and doesn't respond.

We're older, and because of health issues we don't have an active sex life. I'm wondering if my relationship with him has been downgraded to "roommate" without me realizing it. Do I push this? Do I let it alone and settle for what I have now?

I feel like I'm too old to start over, but I have to admit that suddenly feeling like the relationship I thought I had may be an illusion has me very depressed.

LET DOWN IN ARIZONA

DEAR LET DOWN: The most important ingredient in any relationship is communication, and you and Alex have been together long enough that you should be able to level with each other. His reluctance to move forward may be something as simple as a case of cold feet. It could also be that he's had a change of heart and doesn't want to be married. Not all gay people do.

I don't think it would be pressuring him to calmly ask if the idea of being married is something that no longer interests him. If this level of commitment is what you want and he can't give it to you, you deserve to know.

DEAR ABBY: I have a teenage grandson with an upcoming birthday. For several years we have taken him to a major sporting event for his birthday. I get complimentary tickets for this from work.

Last year he noticed that the tickets were complimentary and acted very disappointed. We had spent more than $50 on refreshments and souvenirs. Should we take him to the game again this year, or opt for something else?

CAN'T WIN FOR LOSING IN WICHITA

DEAR CAN'T WIN: Your grandson's reaction was disappointing. He should have been grateful to have been invited to share the experience. It would have been best to discuss his reaction at the time it happened.

Before making up your mind about what to do this year, ask him why he acted the way he did. Feel free to tell him it hurt your feelings. If it turns out he was looking a gift horse in the mouth, make plans to do something else for his birthday this year, at your discretion. Shame on him.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

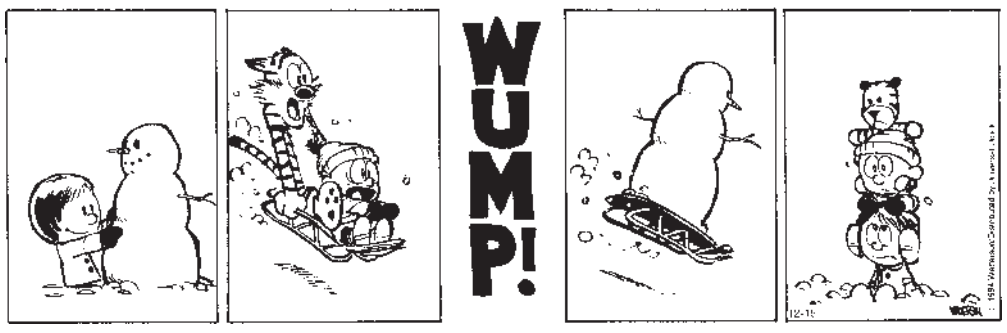
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

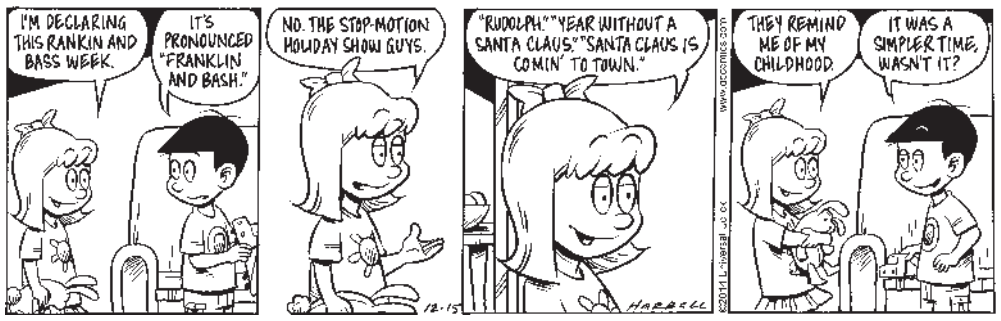


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

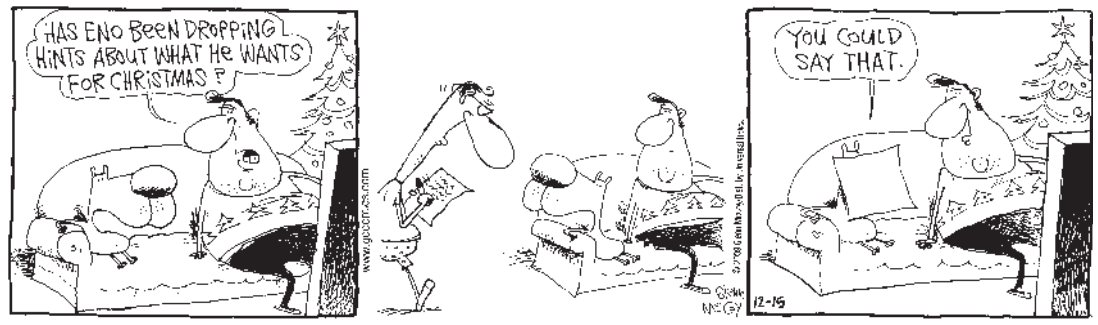
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M DECLARING THIS RANKIN AND BASS WEEK.
IT'S PRONOUNCED "FRANKLIN AND BASH."
NO. THE STOP-MOTION HOLIDAY SHOW GUYS.
"RUDOLPH." "YEAR WITHOUT A SANTA CLAUS." "SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN."
THEY REMIND ME OF MY CHILDHOOD.
IT WAS A SIMPLER TIME, WASN'T IT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bygone automaker
5 Gorilla
8 Top-rated
12 Regional language variations
14 "Once — a time ..."
15 JFK or FDR
16 See to
17 Definite article
18 Brings out
20 Nevertheless, in verse
23 Expression
24 Constrictors, e.g.
25 Insists on
28 Upper limit
29 Extend a subscription
30 Loutish one
32 Minor deity
34 Barbie, e.g.
35 Deserve
36 Celebration
37 Teen Nobelist Yousafzai
40 Intention
41 PC picture
42 Bearing
47 Sandwich shop
48 Agent
49 Land in the water
50 Flop
51 Elbow counterpart

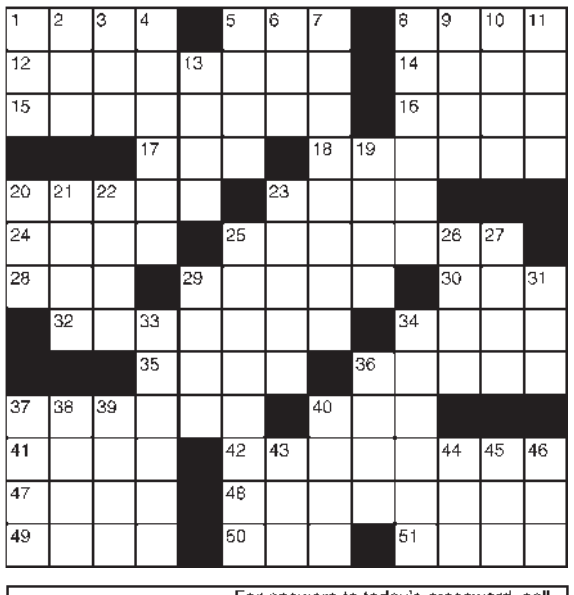
DOWN

1 Peculiar
2 Falsehood
3 Beavers' construct
4 Ai and unau
5 Farm fraction
6 Sch. group
7 Honored
8 Fall
9 Oil cartel
10 Zilch
11 Tackles' teammates
13 Vocal comeback
19 Sketch
20 Home of "The View" and "The Chew"
21 Burden
22 Recording
23 Mortise partner
25 Lowered in status
26 Entrance
27 Flavor enhancer
29 Mideast money
31 Aviate
33 Villain, in kid-lit
34 Lustrous linen
36 Slapstick ammunition
37 Calf-length
38 Top pair, maybe
39 Lounge about
40 In the thick of
43 Ostrich's cousin
44 A Bobbsey twin
45 Raw mineral
46 Whole wheat alternative

Solution time: 27 mins.

H	A	M		M	A	Z	E		B	E	G	S
E	G	O		C	L	A	W		I	D	L	E
M	O	R	T	G	A	G	E		K	E	E	N
		F	Y	F	S			L	I	N	F	D
S	L	O	P	E		L	I	O	N			
C	O	V	E		M	O	R	T	I	M	E	R
A	G	E		S	A	G	A	S		O	D	E
M	O	R	O	C	C	A	N		D	R	.	P
			C	O	C	N		P	I	P	E	S
R	F	N	F	W			B	L	A	H		
A	X	.	L		M	C	R	A	_	I	T	Y
G	I	N	O		O	V	E	N		N	E	O
S	T	E	T		W	A	D	E		G	N	U

Friday's answer 12-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Brody, 35; Julie Taymor, 62; Don Johnson, 65; Tim Conway, 81.

Happy Birthday: Focus on saving money, not giving it away. Your mission this year is to protect and to strategize the best way to maintain and grow in a positive manner emotionally, intellectually and financially. Investing in your abilities and honing your skills and expertise will bring you that much closer to your goals. Don't let the changes others make stifle your plans. Your numbers are 6, 8, 23, 27, 30, 36, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Negative emotions will mount if you feel pressured to give in to someone's demands. Find out all you can about a situation before you make a decision. Don't mix business with pleasure or you will end up in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Learn from your experiences today. Not everyone you work with will be easy to get along with. Put your energy into your personal relationships. Nurture what is most important to you. Stick close to home. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Get moving. Travel plans can be made and socializing with people in your industry will allow you to share your ideas. Discussing intentions with a romantic or business partner will lead to exciting prospects you hadn't considered in the past. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Proceed with caution. Emotional matters will escalate if you refuse to adapt to the changes going on around you. Use your imagination and you will find a way to turn a negative into a positive. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make a point of entertaining people who have something interesting to share. Offer options that will help bring about the changes you are hoping to accomplish. Open discussions will lead to prospects that are worth checking out. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get out and mingle. Attend a business event that allows you to share your thoughts and gives you insight into future trends. Romance is highlighted, but so is jealousy. Be careful not to lead someone on. You'll be walking a fine line. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Refrain from making impulsive personal decisions or changes at home. Learn from past experience and do your best to find ways to improve your knowledge and surroundings. Take care of your work and domestic responsibilities before someone complains. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Plan your actions strategically. There is money to be made and job opportunities to apply for. Don't sit back—be a participant. Stay on top of the latest trends in your industry and prepare to go over and above any competition you face. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make sure you complete whatever job you are given. It's how you deal with people as well as what you accomplish that will pave the way for future opportunities. Don't let an emotional situation stand between you and success. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Question everyone and everything. You need to have a clear picture of what's going on around you if you are going to deal with situations successfully. Don't feel pressured to make changes if you are feeling uncertain. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take what belongs to you. Your ideas are solid, and the help you offer will lead to a positive change at work. Don't let someone's jealousy stop you from doing something that makes you happy and can lead to success. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take a close look at any offer before you agree or make a commitment. You are best to work on self-improvement until you feel comfortable with what you have to offer. Having the confidence to move forward is half the battle. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, impressive and adaptable. You are outgoing and helpful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7		1			4	8	2	
			6	1				4
4		6						7
	2		9		1			8
	6						4	
3			8		2		9	
1						7		9
9				8	3			
	4	8	2			5		3

Difficulty Level ★ 12/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	5	7	1	9	6	8	2	3
9	1	2	8	4	3	5	6	7
8	3	6	2	7	5	1	9	4
6	7	3	9	5	8	2	4	1
1	9	8	3	2	4	7	5	6
5	2	4	6	1	7	9	3	8
7	4	9	5	3	1	6	8	2
3	6	5	7	8	2	4	1	9
2	8	1	4	6	9	3	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BAKERY SCENTS Solution: 9 letters

E	C	M	T	E	E	W	S	B	I	S	C	U	I	T
E	H	A	A	M	O	R	A	L	F	U	D	G	E	U
F	O	C	Y	P	E	S	O	T	H	C	O	R	H	R
F	C	A	U	D	P	N	S	C	A	S	N	G	Y	N
O	O	R	R	O	N	L	T	E	P	R	U	E	M	O
C	L	O	A	A	B	A	E	I	R	O	T	O	M	V
E	A	N	C	V	B	M	C	I	D	P	S	S	U	E
S	T	S	S	A	A	E	E	R	Ⓢ	T	S	S	Y	R
N	E	T	S	N	S	L	U	U	R	Ⓗ	S	E	R	F
U	S	M	A	I	I	O	K	U	Q	E	Ⓞ	A	A	B
B	A	G	E	L	S	F	D	A	I	O	T	Ⓟ	E	U
J	A	S	E	L	L	E	F	P	B	I	R	N	T	T
C	A	K	E	A	L	F	F	U	P	L	A	C	E	T
F	U	M	E	S	O	T	L	E	M	A	E	R	C	E
S	U	G	A	R	R	U	O	L	F	L	A	K	Y	R

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Last Friday's Answer: Medication

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Interested applicants may send their applications to lt_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than December 17, 2014. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the 2nd floor of the JP Center Building along Beach Road or at the Century Tours office at Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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WHATZIT Solution: Drop anchor

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Classified Ads

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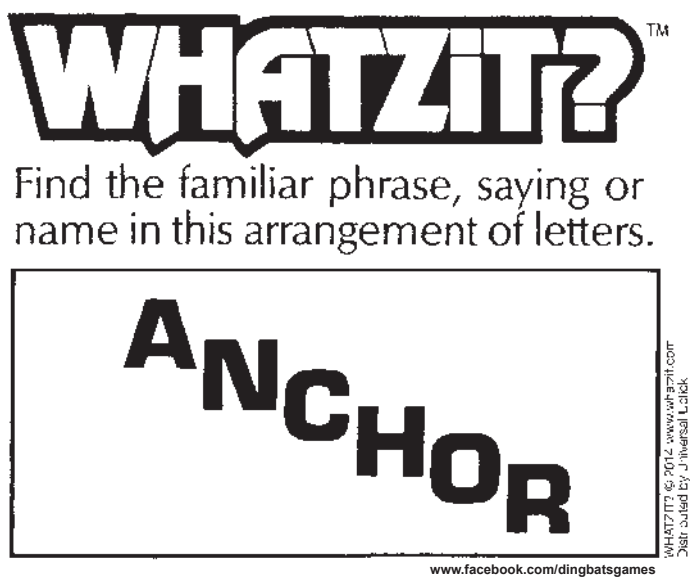
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

Oregon QB Marcus Mariota takes Heisman Trophy

NEW YORK (AP) — Marcus Mariota wrote it all down, every word of his Heisman Trophy acceptance speech. It was a good thing, too, because getting through it might have been tougher than sprinting away from linebacker or tossing a long touchdown pass for the Oregon Ducks.

The understated star quarterback became Oregon's first Heisman winner going away Saturday night, capping a three-year climb to college football's most prestigious individual award.

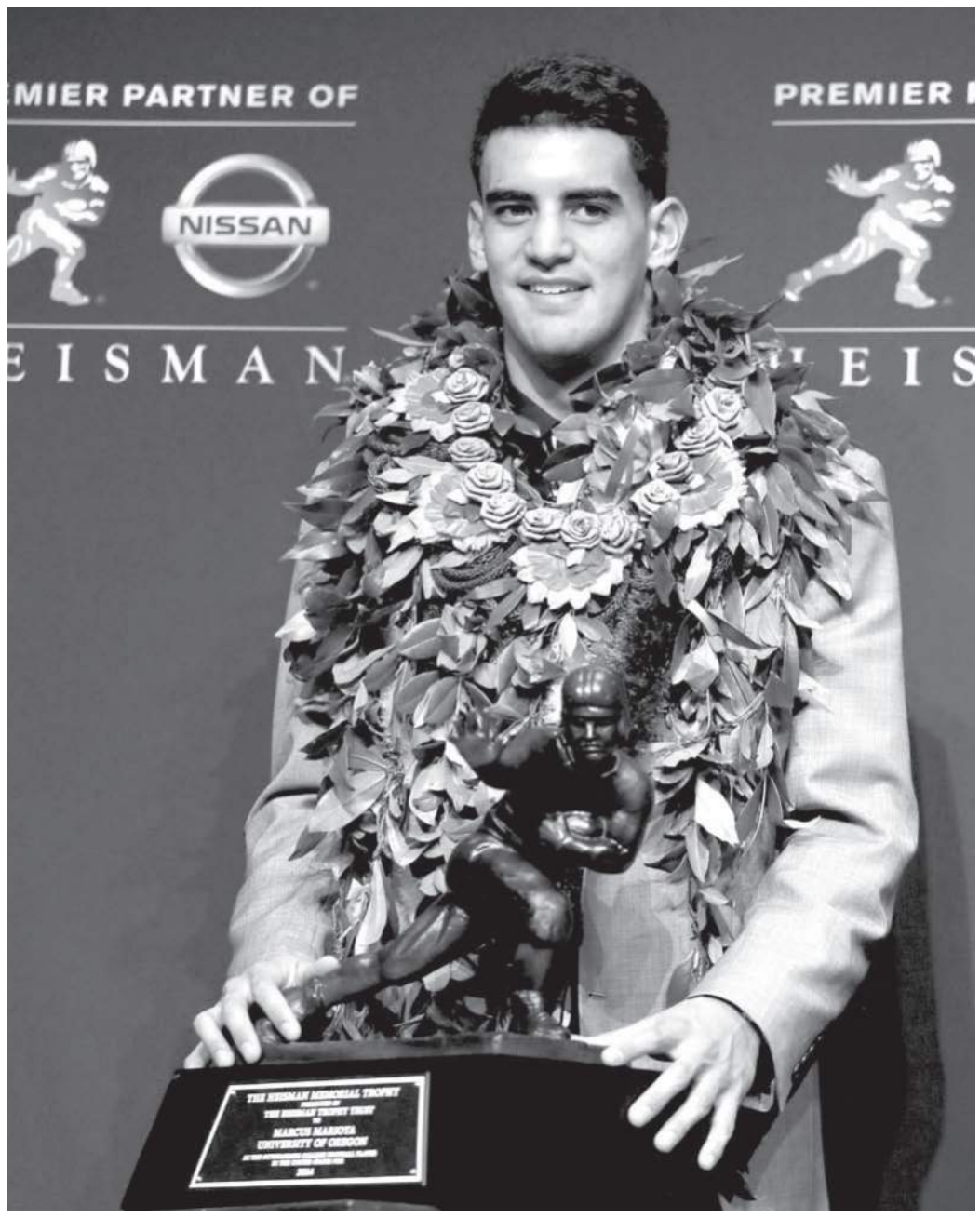
"I'm humbled to be standing here today," Mariota said moments after he was announced as the winner.

Mariota isn't a bigger talker, but he steadily worked through his speech, thanking his teammates, teachers, friends and his home state of Hawaii. He finally hit a snag when it came time to thank his mother and father. He needed to take two deep breaths and still he got choked up.

"I had to give thanks to so many people because where I am today, it's all do to all those people," Mariota said later. "It's hard not to get emotional. It's been a long journey. My emotions got the best of me."

A pinpoint passer with wide-receiver speed, Mariota came into his junior season as the favorite to win the 80th Heisman and delivered a performance that turned the presentation ceremony at a theater in Times Square into a foregone conclusion.

Mariota had twice as many points (2,534) as second-place finisher Melvin Gordon (1,250), the record-breaking running back from Wisconsin. The other finalist, Alabama receiver Amari Cooper, was third.



Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota poses for photographers after being awarded the Heisman Trophy, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014, in New York.

Mariota received the second-highest percentage of possible points (90.92) in Heisman history, behind only Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith, who had 91.63 in 2006. Southern California tailback Reggie Bush received 91.77 percent of possible points in 2005, but his victory was later vacated for violating NCAA rules.

Mariota, the first Hawaii native to win the Heisman, has accounted for a Pac-12-record 53 touchdowns (38 passing, 14 rushing and one receiving) while directing the Ducks' warp-speed spread offense.

"In Hawaii, if one person is successful, the entire state is successful," he said, draped in leis at his news conference.

It will be a matchup of Heisman-winning quarterbacks in the College Football Playoff's Rose Bowl semifinal Jan. 1 with Mariota and the second-seeded Ducks facing Florida State and Jameis Winston.

"I'm just looking forward to getting back on the field and playing again,' Mariota said. "We do have a team goal."

In an era when so many Heisman winners seemingly come from out of nowhere - the last two were the first freshmen winners - Mariota's rise was slow and steady.

Three of the last four Heisman winners were in their first seasons as starters, including Cam Newton, who won the award in his only season at Auburn after transferring from a junior college. Before Newton, three straight sophomores won the award (Tim Tebow of Florida, Sam Bradford of Oklahoma and Mark Ingram of Alabama). Tebow was the first sophomore winner.

Like Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel and Winston, the previous two winners, Mariota started as a redshirt freshman. It didn't take long for him to establish himself as a star, but unlike Johnny Football and Famous Jameis, Mariota wasn't the face of college football in his first season.

In his second season he put up numbers that rivaled those of Heisman finalist quarterbacks Winston, Manziel, AJ McCarron and Jordan Lynch, but when it came time to vote for the Heisman, Mariota was forgotten. He didn't even finish in the top 10 in 2013.

This season Mariota would not be ignored.

He leads the nation in passer rating (186.2), is fifth in total offense (342.5 yards per game) and has led the Ducks to a Pac-12 title with a chance to play for their first national championship.

Of course, patience and poise have defined Mariota's career. He didn't start for his high school team until he was a senior - then led Saint Louis in Honolulu to a state title.

A quiet leader with a nice-guy reputation, Mariota brought no off-field baggage to this Heisman ceremony. After a season beset by off-field troubles, including a school hearing into sexual assault allegations, Winston wasn't a finalist this time around. He finished sixth.

Oregon's only Heisman finalists before Mariota were quarterback Joey Harrington in 2001 and running back LaMichael James in 2010.

"If you have your punch list of things as a program, the most iconic individual award would be the Heisman Trophy. But like Marcus said, I know he'd trade all that to win as a team," Oregon coach Mark Helfrich said.

For Harrington, Oregon, with Nike's help, put up a billboard in Times Square to promote their Heisman candidate.

Oregon didn't need a billboard to get the word out about Mariota. His play provided all the publicity he needed

Still suspended: Adrian Peterson's appeal denied

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Adrian Peterson's appeal was stopped for no gain, when the NFL's unpaid suspension of the star running back was stayed until next spring.

Peterson won't be considered for reinstatement before April 15, and by then he might not be with the Minnesota Vikings anymore. He'll likely be the plaintiff in a lawsuit against the league, though.

Harold Henderson, the league-appointed arbitrator who heard Peterson's appeal, released Friday his decision affirming the Nov. 18 punishment levied by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell for the child-abuse case that kept Peterson out of all but one game this season. He'd been on paid leave, even during the appeal, but Henderson's ruling translated to a fine of more than $4.1 million. That's the six-game portion of his salary this year.

The NFL Players Association argued that Peterson's time on the exempt list, at Goodell's sole discretion, should have counted as time served toward a suspension. That's one of the many grievances the union will likely raise in court. The rift between the league and the NFLPA over the fairness of the disciplinary process has widened this season while the cases of Peterson and former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice played out.

According to a person with direct knowledge of the situation, a complaint will be filed against the NFL on Peterson's behalf in federal court in Minnesota as early as Monday. The person spoke Friday to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the lawsuit had not yet been finalized.

Nothing is final about Peterson's status with the Vikings, either, and coaches and players have said often this year they'd welcome him back. But in an interview Friday with ESPN.com, Peterson said he's been so frustrated by this process with the NFL that he's considered retiring. Focusing on real estate instead and even trying out as an Olympic sprinter in the 200-meter and 400-meter dashes have entered his mind as options, he said.

"You only live once. It might be time for me to pursue that," Peterson told ESPN.com.

In an ironic twist, Peterson probably wouldn't have been punished as much had the public backlash to the initial leniency for Rice not been so severe. Now Rice is reinstated and Peterson remains suspended, though Rice doesn't have a team.

Peterson could find himself a free agent next spring, too. The combination of his age and his contract was already going to make the Vikings think hard about his status, before the heat the organization took for initially announcing he'd continue to play while he went through his due process in court.

The six-time Pro Bowl pick, three-time AP All-Pro and two-time NFL rushing leader has a contract that runs through 2017, with a salary for 2015 at $12.75 million. That's not guaranteed like the other major sports, though, and the Vikings could release him before next season and owe him nothing, taking only a $2.4 million hit on their salary cap.

Henderson's announcement was a decisive victory for Goodell, whose indefinite suspension of Rice was overruled last month by a different arbitrator. Rice was caught on camera punching the woman who's now his wife but was initially given only a two-game ban. The video went viral, and Goodell toughened the punishment.

The union's grievance for Peterson was similar, arguing essentially that Goodell was making up protocol for discipline as he went along. But Henderson forcefully wrote that he saw no bounds being overstepped by the league boss.

Goodell announced in August a stiffer penalty for players involved with domestic violence. The union argued that Peterson, who was charged with felony child abuse in September for use a wooden switch to discipline his 4-year-old son in May, should be subject to the prior guidelines. Henderson said that argument didn't matter.

"The Commissioner has broad discretion to impose appropriate discipline for violations of the personal conduct policy, and his recent pronouncements simply reflect his current thinking on domestic violence and other incidents involving physical force," Henderson wrote.

The NFLPA called Henderson's objectivity into question.

"The decision itself ignores the facts, the evidence and the collective bargaining agreement," the union said in a statement. "This decision also represents the NFL's repeated failure to adhere to due process and confirms its inconsistent treatment of players."

The Vikings initially announced Peterson would stay on the active roster after the first game he missed following the indictment, but they reversed course less than two days later following intense public pressure and placed him on the exempt list at Goodell's approval. That's like paid leave, which the union argued counted as discipline and therefore contributed to an overreaching punishment. Henderson dismissed that argument, too.

Peterson pleaded no contest to misdemeanor reckless assault in Texas Nov. 4 for probation time, community service and a small fine. He acknowledged physically disciplining the boy as he had been as a youth, but he said he meant no harm and was sorry for the trouble he caused.

"I love my son more than any of you can imagine," he said outside the courthouse that day.

Still, Henderson sided with Goodell in his written reprimand of Peterson's purported lack of remorse.

"While the discipline assessed is indeed greater than in most prior cases, this is arguably one of the most egregious cases of domestic violence in this Commissioner's tenure - the severe beating of a 4-year old child, with a tree branch, striking him repeatedly about the body and inflicting injuries visible days later," Henderson said.

Warriors beat Mavericks for 15th straight win

AP
Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) and Dallas Mavericks guard Jameer Nelson, rear, scramble on the court for a loose ball in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014, in Dallas. The Warriors won, 105-98.

DALLAS (AP)—A rare Saturday matinee and a trip to American Airlines Center wasn't enough to slow down the best team in basketball.

Three Warriors scored 20-plus points for the first time this season and Golden State extended its franchise-best win streak to 15 with a wire-to-wire 105-98 road victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

Stephen Curry scored a game-high 29 points, Klay Thompson had 25 and Draymond Green netted 20 for the Warriors, who last had three players drop 20 points or more on April 1, 2013, in a 122-120 win over the Mavs.

"Fifteen wins in a row, it's hard to fathom," said Thompson. "This is a special group."

The Warriors improved to 20-2 on the season. They haven't lost since Nov. 11.

Monta Ellis led Dallas with 24 points and Dirk Nowitzki had 23. Richard Jefferson, in his first start of the season, added 13 points and 13 rebounds.

"I love Jefferson, I love the way he plays," offered Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle. "He plays with a lot of force."

The 3s were falling early for Golden State. Thompson hit a pair and Curry drained a stepback to help the Warriors to a 15-5 lead less than four minutes in.

The lead kept growing, with Curry following his deep 3 with a no-look pass to Shaun Livingston for a layup that pushed the spread to 30-13.

Curry put the finishing touches on a dominant first quarter with an acrobatic lefty layup in transition and a corner 3 with under a minute to play. His stepback 3-point try at the buzzer missed short, but he still dropped 13 and the Warriors led 39-18.

"We've got to be all there from the very beginning until the very end," said Carlisle. "The first quarter did us in."

The lead grew to 28 before a mini rally late in the half had Dallas within 22, 66-44, at halftime.

An 11-1 Dallas run made things interesting early in the third. Tyson Chandler's alley-oop from Ellis near the midpoint of the period had Dallas within 13 before a 3 1/2 minute scoring drought plagued the hosts.

Green made five free throws and Curry got a runner to fall as Golden State restored its 20-point lead.

The Warriors went cold late in the game, and Brandan Wright scored seven of Dallas' points during a 11-0 run that made it 100-92. After Thompson made two free throws, Ellis hit a 3 and Dallas was within seven.

But it was too little too late. Curry's free throws with 39 seconds left proceeded a Jae Crowder missed 3-pointer, as the Warriors held on.

Magic 100, Hawks 99

In Orlando,Tobias Harris got a leaning, 13-foot jumper to rattle in at the buzzer as Orlando snapped Atlanta's nine-game winning streak.

Harris finished with 20 points, Evan Fournier added 19 and Nik Vucevic 18. Orlando took the second game of the back-to-back after Atlanta's victory at home on Friday.

The game was tight throughout, featuring 10 ties and 15 lead changes. The Magic had 10 first-quarter turnovers, but just five the rest of the game.

Jeff Teague had 24 points, leading six Hawks players in double figures. Al Horford added 18 and Kyle Korver 11.

Grizzlies 120, Sixers 115, OT

In Philadelphia, Mike Conley hit the tying 3-pointer to send the game into overtime and scored a career-high 36 points, leading Memphis past Philadelphia.

The Grizzlies rallied from 18 points down over the final 7 minutes of regulation to keep the Sixers winless at home. Conley scored 16 points in the fourth and kept Memphis in the hunt for best record in the Western Conference.

Zach Randolph had 24 points and 11 rebounds. Conley was 13 of 22 from the floor, hit five 3-pointers and had nine assists.

Michael Carter-Williams had an empty triple-double for the Sixers with 16 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds. But a handful of turnovers and poor shot selection helped doom the Sixers in the fourth and OT.

Rockets 108, Nuggets 96

In Houston, Dwight Howard had 26 points and 13 rebounds in his return from injury, James Harden had a triple-double, and Houston overcame an early deficit to beat Denver.

Howard, who missed the previous 11 games with a strained right knee, also reached a milestone, eclipsing 10,000 rebounds in his career.

Harden had 24 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his third career triple-double. He almost didn't get it, grabbing his 10th rebound with less than a second left in the game.

Ty Lawson had 19 points and 12 assists, and Darrell Arthur had a season-high 20 points for the Nuggets.

Bucks 111, Clippers 106

In Milwaukee, Brandon Knight scored 22 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 20, and Milwaukee beat the Clippers.

Jamal Crawford hit a 3-pointer with 3.1 seconds left to pull the Clippers to 109-106. Knight's inbounds pass was tipped out of bounds by Matt Barnes, who was tied up with Khris Middleton on a close play.

The referees reviewed the replay and confirmed that the Bucks had the ball. Milwaukee inbounded again, and Knight hit a pair of free throws with 2.1 seconds remaining to close the scoring.

Barnes scored a season-high 26 points and JJ Redick added 25 for Los Angeles.

Trail Blazers 95, Pacers 85

In Indianapolis, LaMarcus Aldridge had 19 points and 14 rebounds, Damian Lillard added 18 points and Portland finished its five-game road trip with a victory over Indiana.

Portland (18-6) had lost two straight overall and four straight on the Pacers' home court.

C.J. Watson had 23 points and Rodney Stuckey added 14 for the struggling Pacers (7-17), who have lost eight straight. It's Indiana's longest losing streak since an eight-game skid in December 2009.

Portland shot 77.8 percent from the field against the Pacers' usually stout defense in the second quarter, turning a one-point deficit into a 58-38 halftime lead.

Nets 14, Hornets 87

In Charlotte, Joe Johnson scored 22 points, Deron Williams and Mason Plumlee had double-doubles and Brooklyn beat Charlotte for its second straight victory.

Johnson was 9 of 16 from the field and 4 of 6 from 3-point range as the Nets shot 16 of 23 from beyond the arc.

Williams had 18 points and 10 assists, and Plumlee outplayed counterpart Al Jefferson with 11 points and 13 rebounds for the Nets (10-12), who eclipsed 100 points for the first time in 11 games.

Pistons 95, Kings 90

In Sacramento, Greg Monroe scored 24 points, Josh Smith had 21 points, 13 rebounds and five blocked shots, and Detroit beat Sacramento for its second straight victory.

Detroit had lost 13 straight and was one loss shy of tying the franchise record before beating Phoenix on Friday.

Rudy Gay made four 3-pointers and scored 20, and also added eight rebounds and eight assists for the Kings. Carl Landry had 15 points and Ben McLemore 14 for Sacramento, who has dropped three straight and eight of 10.

Red Sox, Tigers agree to Cespedes-Porcello swap

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Less than five months after acquiring Yoenis Cespedes as part of a big deadline deal, the Boston Red Sox traded the slugging outfielder to help bolster their rotation.

The Detroit Tigers were happy to take him.

Boston sent Cespedes to the Tigers on Thursday for right-hander Rick Porcello in a deal that both teams hope will help fill significant needs. The Red Sox are rebuilding their starting pitching after losing 91 games this year, and Detroit was able to add another power hitter to a lineup that also includes Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez.

Pitchers Alex Wilson and Gabe Speier also went to Detroit as part of the trade.

"We were not looking to trade Yoenis Cespedes," Boston general manager Ben Cherington said. "But as we got into the offseason and looked at what our alternatives were, and we needed to build our rotation, and the depth we had in the outfield - we feel good about the outfield group that we have. Just felt it made sense."

The Red Sox acquired Cespedes in July in the deal that sent Jon Lester to Oakland. Cespedes finished the year with a .260 average, 22 home runs and 100 RBIs. Boston was unable to bring back Lester as a free agent, and the Red Sox needed to add to their rotation after also trading Jake Peavy and John Lackey during the season.

Boston completed a one-year contract Thursday night with free-agent right-hander Justin Masterson, who began his career with the Red Sox, and has discussed a deal to obtain left-hander Wade Miley from Arizona.

Porcello does not turn 26 until later this month, but he has plenty of experience. He made his debut with Detroit in 2009 as a 20-year-old, and he's been a mainstay in the Tigers' rotation ever since. He is coming off a season in which he set career bests with 15 wins, a 3.43 ERA and 204 2-3 innings pitched.

Porcello has held hitters to a 53 percent groundball rate, a skill that may be more useful at Fenway Park than in Detroit.

"We feel he's been one of the better starting pitchers in baseball," Cherington said. "He's been on a staff with a lot of big-name pitchers so he gets buried in the names in Detroit. But he's been really good in his own right."

The Tigers, who have won the last four AL Central titles, still have Justin Verlander, David Price and Anibal Sanchez in their rotation, and they recently acquired Shane Greene from the New York Yankees. Free agent star Max Scherzer remains on the open market.

Detroit also acquired right-handed starter Alfredo Simon from Cincinnati on Thursday.

The 29-year-old Cespedes gives Detroit another power-hitting presence in the middle of its lineup. The Tigers already made an addition to their outfield this offseason, acquiring speedy center fielder Anthony Gose from Toronto. Cespedes joins a group of outfielders that also includes J.D. Martinez and Rajai Davis.

If J.D. Martinez can repeat his 23-homer performance of 2014, the Tigers should have plenty of power threats, and although Cespedes has an on-base percentage of only .316 in three major league seasons, he is a decade younger than outfielder Torii Hunter, who left Detroit via free agency.

Mayweather calls out Pacquiao for May 2 bout

BOXING

Pound-for-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr. has had precious little to say about the fight the public has demanded for years, a bout with Manny Pacquiao—until Friday night.

Mayweather said during a Showtime interview that he wants to fight Pacquiao next and wants the fight to be May 2, the Cinco de Mayo weekend that Mayweather has regularly fought on.

"We are ready. Let's make it happen. May 2. Mayweather versus Manny Pacquiao. Let's do it," Mayweather said in the interview in San Antonio, where his promotional company was putting on a boxing card.

In the days before Pacquiao dropped Chris Algieri six times in a near-shutout decision to retain his welterweight title Nov. 22, he and Top Rank promoter Bob Arum launched a verbal offensive in an effort to kick-start the pressure on Mayweather.

Pacquiao even starred in a Foot Locker commercial mocking Mayweather's supposed reluctance to face him in what would be by far the richest fight in boxing history.

Friday night's interview included Mayweather's first extended remarks on the prospect of the fight in quite some time, and it was the first time he directly said he wanted to fight Pacquiao next and mentioned a specific date.

The fight has been demanded by the public since 2009, and the sides have had various unsuccessful negotiations, most notably in late 2009 and early 2010, when they made a deal on all aspects of the fight except for a drug-testing protocol. The deal fell apart.

"I would love to fight Manny Pacquiao. We tried to make the fight happen years ago; we had problems with random blood and urine testing," Mayweather said. "I just want to be on an even playing field. Now he's in a very, very tight situation. He's lost to [Juan Manuel] Marquez [in 2012], he's lost to [Timothy] Bradley [by controversial decision in 2012 but avenged it in April]. Pay-per-view numbers are extremely low. He's desperate. I wanted that fight a long time ago. I'm just waiting on them."

Mayweather failed to mention that Pacquiao long ago agreed to be randomly tested. He also failed to mention that while Pacquiao's pay-per-view figures have indeed been soft in recent fights, Mayweather's have also plummeted. Three of the four fights that he has had so far under his six-fight contract with CBS/Showtime failed to reach even 900,000 buys.

Pacquiao and Arum have been pressing for the fight in recent weeks, and Arum has held talks with CBS president and CEO Leslie Moonves in an effort to work out a deal under which Showtime and HBO, which has Pacquiao (57-5-2, 38 KOs) under contract, would produce a joint pay-per-view. The companies did that once before for the 2002 heavyweight championship fight between Lennox Lewis, who was signed to HBO, and Mike Tyson, who was with Showtime.

Mayweather (47-0, 26 KOs), however, perhaps had not heard about the Arum-Moonves talks because he told Showtime, "Of course, we have to make the fight happen on Showtime pay-per-view, because 'Showtime Championship Boxing' is No. 1 and will remain No. 1. I'm the man. I'm here to stay.

"Floyd Mayweather is not ducking or dodging any opponent. Bob Arum is stopping the fight. We have been trying to make this fight happen behind the scenes for years now, but the fans and the people have been fooled because they have been listening to people just on one side. Now it's time for us to talk. We want the fight."

Hustlers vs Wild Bill's in Thursday billiards semis

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Regular season champion Route33 Armatech Hustlers made it two in a row against Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball to lead the semifinalists in the Budweiser Cup of the Thursday 8-Ball Billiards League.

The visiting Hustlers scored a come-from-behind 9-8 win last week to eliminate the Magic 8 Ball and join Wild Bill's, Poseidon Titans and Jonny's Team SCS into the Final Four that will be played on Dec. 18.

Magic 8 Ball jumped to an early 6-1 advantage, as Chesther Cuento, Rey Hermogenes, Rodel Dela Cruz and Rick Elefante alternated in beating Senen Pangilinan, Robert Sanciangco, Jerry Soriano, Simon Kapileo, and Oscar Sablan in the two doubles and five singles matches played. Soriano scored the Hustlers' lone win against Rico Montano in the first singles 8-Ball event.

The tandems of Soriano and Pangilinan and Kapileo and Sanciangco then won their respective match-ups against the Magic 8 Ball pairs of Cuento and Hermogenes and Dela Cruz and Elefante in the doubles. Magic 8 Ball, despite losing three of the five singles events, banked on Cuento and Elfante to move them one win away from earning a semis berth in the race-to-nine contest. However, down by three wins and facing elimination, Soriano and the rest of the Hustlers topped their respective opponents to complete the comeback win.

The Hustlers will next face Wild Bill's, a 9-4 conqueror of the Jokers Homeboyz, while the Poseidon Titans earned the right of facing Jonny's Team SCS following a 9-8 victory against National Alamo Car Rental.

Team SCS earned a semis spot after a 9-3 demolition of the Barcode Breakers.

In the Budweiser Cup Tuesday league, the Jokers IT&E Voyagers also escaped with a 9-8 triumph over the Smoke Pub Saipan TV Hustlers to grab the last semis berth and join the Str8 Shooters, Jonny's Crazy 8 and Smoke Pub Sang&D'Gang to the next round.

Rolly Villanueva, with the score tied at 8, gave the Voyagers the needed win after beating Rowel Villanueva in the final singles event.

The Voyagers will face sister team Str8 Shooters tomorrow, while the Crazy 8 take on Sang&D"Gang in the other Final Four pairing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Wild Bill's players enjoy a light moment after beating the Jokers Homeboyz in the Budweiser Cup of the Thursday 8-Ball Billiards League.

WSR

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In the second half, WSR spent most of its time playing defense to limit Garapan's scoring opportunities and foil the Mallards' bid for another deadlock.

Melissa Dickinson coached WSR in the title match, as the Kingfishers' head coach—Jude Loste—was at the other pitch calling the shot in the team's boys finals showdown against Saipan International School.

Dickinson's starters for the finals were Costales, Joyce, Kristelle Itaas, Pauline Viray, Shermaine Francisco, Raenna Ramarui, Jayce Gilles, Rainalyn Reyes, and Dianavher Naanep. Other members of the squad were Irish Viray, Shakira Francisco, and Joannah Carreon.

Meanwhile, in the battle for third place, San Vicente Elementary School whipped Koblerville Elementary School, 6-0.

The Top 3 finishers in the division received trophies in a brief award ceremony attended by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials. NMIFA also handed out the Golden Boot award in the girls division with San Vicente's Barbara Peteru winning the coveted plum with her 21 goals. She scored five in the third place match and also hit the board in the Canaries' five other games. Costales finished second with her 12, while Joyce rounded out the Top 3 after tallying 10.

Meanwhile, results of the boys finale between SIS and WSR will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

SJ

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son and beating three playoff foes.

Kobee Mendoza top-scored in the Ol'Aces' title win, firing 19 points. He, cousin Karlo De Leon and Dustin Sablan teamed up in the Ol'Aces' jackrabbit start that saw Nabors' wards build a 32-14 lead at the end of the first period. Sablan and De Leon logged 9 points apiece in the opening canto, while Mendoza added 8, 6 of them came from downtown.

In the second quarter, KFC picked up its scoring and spread the wealth to bring the deficit down to 13 at the turn, 36-49. However, the Ol'Aces threatened to pull away with its 9-0 run in the first four minutes of the third period for its biggest advantage in the title match, 58-36.

Sensing trouble, KFC coach Jun Alipio sued for time and when the game resumed, his players regrouped and manage to win the exchange past the halfway mark of the third, 20-8, to move within 10, 56-66. Shane Deleon Guerrero led the KFC' recovery, scoring 10 of his 19 points in that rally. However, the Ol'Aces stood their ground and kept the double-digit spread at the end of the third canto, 70-59, after gaining 4 more markers against the 3 of KFC.

The lead ballooned to 19, 83-64, as the Ol'Aces went for the jugular in the first five minutes of the fourth frame. Six different Ol'Aces players joined forces in unloading a 14-5 bomb and sealing the championship for the unbeaten squad. Ignacio Borja scored 4 points in the crucial exchange, while Mendoza, De Leon, Nabors, Joseph Sablan, and Garreth Jumao-as added one field goal apiece. Jethro Cruz and Deleon Guerrero combined for the 5 points for KFC, which never made a serious comeback attempt in the remaining five minutes of the title match to lose its upset bid against the Ol'Aces.

Meanwhile, in the battle for third place, the Rollers A routed the Chalan Kanoa Saints, 80-66.

Mike Arciaga had a breakout game in the consolation match, exploding for 32 points. Prince Factor and Emerson Feria backed him up, contributing 16 and 14, respectively. Nakashima Nakashima paced the Saints with his 24 points, while Jun Fidelino chipped in 17.

Besides the U18 title and third place games, the U21 division finals was also held last Saturday and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

First Game

Rollers A 80 – Arciaga 32, Factor 16, Feria 14, Malonzo 7, Babauta 6, Vivero 4, Deocared 2.

CK Saints 66 – Nakashima 24, Fidelino 17, Pangelinan 9, Espinosa 8, Jones 4, Omengkar 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-24, 40-34, 53-49, 80-66.

Second Game

SJ Ol'Aces 95 – Mendoza 19, D. Sablan 18, Borja 14, De Leon 11, J. Sablan 10, Jumao-as 10, Cruz 8, Nabors 5.

KFC 84 – Deleon Guerrero 19, Cruz 18, Francisco 14, Javier 11, Kwon 7, Darag 3, Ogasawara 2, Borromeo 2, Cruz 1.

Scoring by quarters: 32-14, 49-36, 70-59, 95-84.

BOOM

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ing his comeback bout in seven years, when he faced Korean Jae Woong Kim. (Details of the Camacho-Kim bout will be reported in *Saipan Trbune's* Tuesday edition).

Alvarez waited for a long time to face Wusstig, but he ended their duel quickly as the former needed only 26 seconds in the first round to score the knockout win.

Determination and fire were seen in Alvarez's eyes as he made it a personal goal to reclaim the featherweight strap after Wusstig defeated his cousin, Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, via split decision in Trench Warz 15: Supremacy on Dec. 11, 2011.

Roman, despite facing the reigning champ, showed that he's not intimidated by Wusstig's height advantage as he even engaged the defending champ into a stare down that further fired up the home crowd. Wusstig stands 5'9" while Alvarez is 5'6".

Roman was the clear aggressor right from the opening bell, quickly pressing on to attack Wusstig's defense and that somehow threw the deposed champ out of his game plan.

A Roman left straight staggered Wusstig and like a shark that smelled blood, the Trench Tech fighter pushed further, forcing his opponent to fall back first on the canvass. He pounced on the moment, mounting his opponent and rapidly rained a flurry of punches.

Pandemonium erupted when fight referee Tony D'Angelo stopped the fight as the veteran third man on the ring immediately intervened after seeing Wusstig could no longer withstand Roman's attacks.

"That was a technical knockout. I saw his [Wusstig] eyes rolled out where the only thing that you saw is the white. He was knocked out and only awaken by another punch by Roman," said D'Angelo after the fight.

Wusstig's lost his second title defense after he also defeated Roman's stablemate Jessie Fassi two years ago.

Roman remained undefeated after four fights, two of which were recorded in the Pacific Xtreme Combat. He scored a knockout win by head kick against Jay Taijeron in the first round of their bout in PXC 40 last year and earned a unanimous decision win over McKlane Alfred in PXC 42 early this year.

"Hats off to Rob, he's a great fighter that's why I really need to be at my best. I trained hard for this with the end goal of bringing the title back on Saipan," said Roman, who is open and ready to a rematch if ever Wusstig wants one.

"He took it away from my sparring partner and brother, Shane, that's why I was really determined to beat him. I just pressed on with the attack and went straight for the kill. I broke my left arm in the process," he added.

Wusstig dropped to 4-8 and suffered his third straight defeat. He hasn't won since beating Thaddeus Malbreaux via guillotine choke in PXC 30 on March 30, 2012.

His two other losses were against Nate Quiniola Thorell (unanimous decision) in PXC 36 last year and Mark Striegl by submission scarf hold arm-lock with 1:38 left in the first round in PXC 33 on Sept. 1, 2012.

Shirley's earns second finals berth in Traders tourney

By JON PEREZ
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Shirley's Badminton Club dropped the second half of its match-up with Community Badminton Club, but had enough points to seal the second finals berth in the 8th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

Shirley's, entering its final match up against CBC last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex, was holding on to a 4-point lead over its opponents, 62-58. CBC needed at least a 10-5 decision last weekend in to clinch the second finals berth, but it only managed an 8-7 win, giving Shirley's the right to face Saipan Badminton Club in the championship match. The defending three-time champion SBC bagged the first finals slot after collecting a whopping 80 points, leaving Shirley's and CBC to fight for the other berth in the deciding Friday duel.

CBC lost a chance to set a finals date with SBC, as it collected 66 points against the 69 of Shirley's. The youth-laced club would have to settle for the battle for third place against Golden Racquets . Consolatio games and finals final were played last Sunday and results were unavailable at press time.

In the CBC-Shirley's match, the former quickly collected 3 points after Andreau Galvez and Jen Savellano dispatched the latter's pair of Ferdie Arago and Windy Fernandez, 21-20, 21-12, in the mixed A division.

Shirley's evened things up after Fernandez and Lani Bartolome scored an easy 21-12, 21-8 decision over CBC's Janelle Pangilinan and Havika Farro in the women's AB.

Shirley's moved ahead following Leo Xu and Patrick Fernandez's 21-14, 21-17 win against the CBC pair of John Costales and Jeremi Montejo in the men's C.

CBC needed to seal a 2-game win in the women's C to keep its finals hopes alive. Three points are awarded to a team that wins a match in two games, while 2 points are given to the winning squad and one to its opponent if the match goes to three.

The CBC tandem of Patricia Abantao and Micky Caracut eventually got the victory, but was forced to go the full route against Joy Yumul and Vilma Reyes before escaping with a 14-21, 21-20, 21-19 win. Caracut and Nicole Malasarte closed out CBC's campaign with a 21-14, 21-15 triumph over the Shirley's tandem of Reyes and Jaja Bocago in the women's BC.

JON PEREZ
Shirley's Badminton Club's Jeff Riman goes for a smash in an earlier game in the 8th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.

DCCA holds off CUC comeback bid

JON PEREZ
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Perry Inos, left, drives against Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Iramk Simada during their playoff game in the 2014 IT&E-DYS Inter-government Basketball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs survived a furious second-half rally by Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to complete a 78-74 decision and move deeper into the playoff round of the 2014 IT&E-DYS Inter-government Basketball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DCCA dropped an 18-7 bomb to pull away from a still manageable 21-15 lead early in the second period and erect a 39-22 spread with 3:11 to go in the quarter. DCCA entered the break enjoying a 45-31 advantage.

Then just when everyone thought DCCA would easily break away in the third, CUC prove them wrong and outscored their opponents, 21-12, to move within five, 57-52, entering the final canto.

However, Perry Inos and the rest of DCCA traded baskets with CUC in the fourth period to foil the latter's comeback bid and earn the right of facing Commonwealth Health Center in another playoff match in the double-elimination tournament last Friday.

Results of Friday's matches between DCCA and CUC, and Customs and DPS were unavailable at press time, as organizers have yet to release copies of the score sheets.

Inos finished with 30 points, 12 rebounds, 2 steals, an assist, and a block, while Ed Pangelinan added 20 markers and 3 steals. Tim Wesley had an all-around game of 12 points, 12 rebounds, 4 steals, 2 assists, and 2 blocks.

John Santos paced CUC's losing cause with 27 points, 13 rebounds, 3 assists, and 5 steals, while Tony Diaz chipped in 18 markers, 5 boards, and 2 steals. James Benavente scattered 15 points to go with 5 caroms and 2 steals.

Earlier, Northern Marianas Sports Association pulled off a 64-48 decision over Department of Public Safety. NMSA will face top seed Feds at 6pm tonight at the Ada gym for the first finals berth.

Peter Camacho finished with a game-high 21 points and added 7 rebounds for NMSA. Veteran playmaker and coach Elias Rangamar provided support with 12 markers, 4 assists, 2 rebounds, and 2 steals. Ezra Caro scored 8 and collected 9 boards.

Edwin Camacho was the lone DPS player to reach double digits with 11.

First Game

NMSA 64–P. Camacho 21, Rangamar 12, Caro 8, Sablan 7, Babauta 6, Basa 6, Fitial 2, Winkfield 2.

DPS 48–Camacho 11, Sablan 6, Joab 5, S. Pua 5, Iginoef 4, M. Saures 4, George 3, J. Pua 3, Rabauliman 3, Kaipat 2, J. Saures 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-11, 32-24, 45-37, 64-48.

Second Game

DCCA 78–Inos 30, Pangelinan 20, Wesley 12, Manabat 8, Ito 4, Aaron 2, R. Deleon Guerrero Jr. 2.

CUC 74–Santos 27, Diaz 18, Benavente 15, Lieto 5, Seider 5, Iramk 2, Poquiz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-13, 45-31, 57-52, 78-74.

Benchwarmers get solo Rocball lead

The Benchwarmers took the solo lead in the Rocball league after winning the battle of unbeaten teams last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

According to Saipan Rocball creator and league coordinator James Feger, the Benchwarmers juiced-out Local Motion, 42-31. A juiced-out victory is awarded to team that had the lead at the end of the regulation and also won the fourth set of the match.

The Benchwarmers also prevailed in the opening set of their duel against Local Motion, 12-4, to gain early momentum. Local Motion fought back in the second set with a 13-8 win to move within three, 17-20, and then grabbed the upper hand, 29-28, after another victory in the third set, 12-8. However, Local Motion failed to complete the come-from-behind win, as the Benchwarmers regrouped and took an emphatic 14-3 victory in the fourth and final set.

Despite losing the game, Local Motion had a sort of consolation as its top player—A.J. Seman—was named the heavy hitter of the match. Seman scored 16 points off six aces and two backcourt plays.

Thirteen aces, eight kees, and one goal were scored in the Benchwarmer-Local Motion tussle.

With the Benchwarmers winning, they improved to a 6-0 record. Local Motion settled for the second spot with its 5-1 mark, while the Veterans rounded out the Top 3 in the team standings with its 4-2 slate. Completing the field are Oba Squirt and the Teacher, which are tied for fourth and fifth, IDGU and Mix, which are also in a standoff for sixth to seventh place, and cellar dweller Nameless.

In related Rocball news, the Rocball Federation of India, which is affiliated with Saipan Rocball, has scheduled the National Senior Men and Women's Rocball Tournament for Dec. 26 and 27. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Benchwarmers players and their young supporter pose for a photo after beating Local Motion last week in the Rocball league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run Wednesday

The Saipan Swim Club 8th Jingle Bell Fun Run will be held this Wednesday.

The 4.5-kilometer race will start and end at the Minachom Atdao with participants heading to as far as the Quartermaster Road for the turnaround. Registration begins at 4pm, while the race starts at 5pm. Registration fee is only $15 with the first 100 to sign up getting umbrellas. Registration forms are available at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool on Tuesday from 4pm to 6pm. For early registration, send email to saipanswimclub@gmail.com. Interested participants can also register on race day.

Prizes will be given to top finishers, while a raffle drawing will also take place after the race.

This Wednesday's event is a fundraiser with proceeds to be used in various activities of the club. ***(SSC)***

Oregon QB Marcus Mariota wins Heisman Trophy

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Sports

Shirley's earns second finals berth in Traders tourney

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WSR bags girls IFL crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School ended a five-year title drought after edging Garapan Elementary School, 2-1, in the girls division finals of the 2014 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Pauline Grace Joyce and Katrina Costales scored one goal apiece in the title win, as the Kingfishers notched their second girls championship after ruling the inaugural tournament in 2008 against Koblerville Elementary School, 2-0. WSR became only the second school to top the annual competition twice, joining the company of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, which won the girls tiara in 2010 and 2012. Dandan Elementary School (2009), Oleai Elementary School (2011), and Whispering Palms (2013) were the other past champions in the girls league.

The newly crowned champion prevailed in this year's tournament despite facing an early 0-1 deficit. WSR trailed, as Garapan's Sue Ann Huevos found the back of the net right into the third minute of the first half. Four minutes later, Joyce retaliated to even up the count, while Costales broke the deadlock with her goal in the 19th minute or just one minute before the opening frame wrapped up.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A William S. Reyes Elementary School player is left alone to battle the ball against three Garapan Elementary School bets during their title game in the girls division of the 2014 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

'Boom' quickly dispatches Wusstig

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Roman "Boom" Alvarez made true to his promise of bringing back the 145-pound belt back on Saipan as he made short work of Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig in the featured main title fight of Trench Warz 18: Rock & Rumble last Friday night at the packed Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Alvarez was in the semi-main event in the 14-match fight card that had Frank "The Crank" Camacho mak-

See BOOM on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Roman "Boom" Alvarez, second left, poses with Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, and other supporters at the conclusion of Trench Warz 18: Rock & Rumble last Friday night at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

SJ Ol'Aces clinch U18 title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The San Jose Ol'Aces capped their unbeaten season in the U18 division of the 2014 BANMI Youth League with a 95-85 win against Kentucky Fried Chicken in the winner-take-all finale last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces got off to a rousing start, withstood KFC's late third-quarter rally, and went for the killer blows in the opening minutes of the fourth to secure the division championship. The Keith Nabors-coached Ol'Aces won 11 games this year, sweeping the round-robin regular sea-

See SJ on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
San Jose Ol'Aces and Kentucky Fried Chicken players battle for the loose ball during the third quarter of their U18 title match in the BANMI youth caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.